

January 01, 2010 rain

We woke to thunder and lightning. I decided the freezer water line was frozen so turned the freezer off and tried it. I was correct!!! Now to put it back together requires special star washers that I don't have. We watched the Rose parade until it was over at 1 PM then went to the club house for the golfers buffet. No golfers came since it was a rainy day but we saw the blond from last night with her 2 kids this morning. I had a soup, sandwich and salad plus cookie for desert. We went to Home Depot afterwards to look for star washers for the water line but no luck.

~

January 02, 2010 cleanup

We decided to leave tomorrow so are doing a mad scramble to clean the place. I setup Scooby to run in the kitchen while we go to the clubhouse for lunch. I had a BLT with fruit. Libbie had an angus burger with sweet potato fries. Went to Yoders to get the box of honeybelles we ordered. In the evening we stopped over at Peter and Christa's to say goodbye and thank them for a nice time Friday night. We had to run to Publix late to get toilet bowl cleaner and also a container of cut fruit for the trip.

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January 03, 2010 driving

We got up at 4 AM and were on the road by 4:50. It was 41 degrees out which was very cold. Early in the drive there was no traffic. We stopped at McDonalds at exit 271 in Ormond Beach for gas and McDonalds. I got a sausage and egg muffin and had coffee from my thermos. Gas at raceway across the street was 2.74. Our next stop was in Manning, SC about 40 miles South of Florence. We ate at the Taco Bell there and paid 2.48 per gallon. I had a soft taco. Traffic was stopped just North of Fayetteville, NC and was stop and go all the way to I-40. We stopped by Trader Joes to get some pizza then went to Bluebird to check it out. All looked well. The pilot in house 4 was out. I re-lit it but the burner is outside the box. Will deal with it tomorrow. Instead I hooked up house 3 heater to the thermostat for overnight. I'm not sure if the hot dawg is coming on. We got home around 4:50 and unloaded the car into a cold 62 degree house. Brrr. More of the same tonight.

~

January 04, 2010 catchup

This is catchup day. I paid some bills, balanced stock accounts and studied portfolios. Went over to the greenhouse to look at the heaters with the hot dog hooked to the house 2 heater. We decided that a second hot dog will be appropriate for house 2. It will blow under the bench just like house 1. Control is yet to be determined but I'm thinking that it will come on with one of the house 1 heaters. House 2 overhead will be on the second stage. Dinner was Briyani.

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January 05, 2010 groceries

I did the grocery run this morning. Found the other Loge controller and tried programming it with success. I'll hook the laptop to it and try programming it to verify the tool chain for when I take it to the greenhouse. In the PM we drove to Fuquay and got our H1N1 shots. It was easy and well organized. Came home and worked on programming a little more. Bought some RGNC today in the individual account. This is a tax advantaged MLP. I really need more of these in the individual account. Dinner was chili made from the ingredients I purchased in Kroger this morning.

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January 06, 2010 Hoffman

I worked on the LOGE controller today. Got the program finished but didn't want to try it since we wouldn't be home tonight. We left at 5:30 for Hoffman after a bowl of Libbie's chili. We bought a giant tub of popcorn and also had some hot chocolate and coffee. Hoffman was great except they gave us passes when the 3rd act couldn't be shown. Now we need to figure out what to use the passes for. Got home around 10 PM. I really liked Kate Lindsey, the muse. I had a dream about her during the night.

~

January 07, 2010 LOGE

I went to the greenhouse this morning and reprogrammed the LOGE controller. Afterwards I replaced the faucet handles on the bathroom sink. The cold water faucet broke in half. The byonics TT4 came this afternoon. I started by installing the firmware and now need to make a cable. Dinner was tortellini pasta.

~

January 08, 2010 heat

We decided to order the heater for house 2. A 100,000 BTU Hot Dawg is on order. Marie said it's in stock in VA and should be here in a week or two. I went to Home Depot for gas pipe parts after doing some measurements at the greenhouse. For dinner we went to Lucky 32 for Creole Eggplant. It's a carnivale menu. We had a glass of Australian Shiraz with the meal which I didn't care for. Overall it was a nice evening. I used the online Open Table web site to make reservations and it worked. They took us at 7:15 PM which was on time. After dinner we went to Walmart and bought a Min-Max thermometer. We took the battery out of the greenhouse clock to power it. Walmart wanted \$6 for a battery pack so we didn't get one. I have batteries at home to replace the clock battery.

~

January 09, 2010 Rosenkavalier

Stayed home this morning doing computer work on the one wire Mars. Can't get it to read temperatures. Left at 11:30 to go to the 1 PM Rosenkavalier performance. Boy is it cold outside!!! We had to stand in the cold until they opened the theater doors. The performance was spectacular. The blending of female voices, especially when those voices are Rene Fleming and Susan Graham, is so spiritual and beautiful. Instead of dinner at home we went over to La Cocina because we didn't get out till 6 PM. We stopped by Trader Joe's and picked up wine for dinner but then decided to not eat at home since it was so late. We had Frozen Margaritas and Quesadillas, our usual dinner there.

~

January 10, 2010 Conduit

After reading the newspaper I went to Lowes for conduit and then to Office Max to get a wireless mouse for Libbie's computer. Ran the new power line to house 2 where the new Hot Dawg will go. This was a struggle

pulling wire through the conduit until Libbie came back to help. It still was hard. Spent the rest of the afternoon tacking down the conduit across the two houses and wiring up the new outlet. While I was finishing up, Bertha came on. The Hot Dawg was powered down so the controller put the greenhouse in fail safe mode. This was a good test of fail safe although it was unintentional. Dinner was Libbie's great pizza as usual.

~

January 11, 2010 cookies

I did some convention work this morning fulfilling patch orders and answering questions. I agreed to write two articles for Marjorie. Went to the greenhouse and finished the ground and labeling of the new Modine Hot Dawg outlet. Hooked up the come along in house 3 to lower the fanjet but did not unbolt it from the wall. Will do that tomorrow. Later I returned to the greenhouse with Libbie because I forgot to turn the Hot Dawg breaker back on after working on the outlet. The heat had not turned on yet. It's supposed to be warmer tonight anyway. After a dinner of Curry chicken Libbie and I went to Trader Joe's and picked up some chocolate chip cookie dough. We tried baking 6 of them as a sample. They were yummy. My application for the Schwab One account was returned for insufficient postage. What a bummer since I was counting on this money link to help pay the Visa bill by doing a brokerage to credit card transfer. Libbie said the AP Circuits card arrived. This is for the microwave controller which had the LCD controller mirror imaged.

~

January 12, 2010 busy day

I skipped the groceries this morning and went straight to unhooking the house 3 Fanjet. While lowering it the Fire inspector showed up. We have a number of issues to deal with including outlet covers and extension cords. She spent several hours there taking up my time. Next was the TAVS meeting and luncheon. It was a lot of fun. I sold 10 patches to the TAVS group bringing the patch total to 30 now. I spent 160 for them. We sold 20 at 5.50 = \$110. eBay, paypal and postage cost \$20 netting \$110-\$20 = \$90. TAVS paid \$35, making the grand total \$125. Dinner tonight was out to dinner at La Cocina because we were tired.

~

January 13, 2010 Fanjet moving

Picked up outlet covers and breaker box covers in Lowes. Went to the greenhouse and started complying with the fire code. When it warmed up a little I put the 6 inch numbers on the building facing the road. Chopped 3 feet off the house 2 bench then used the space to roll the fanjet into. Next I slid the fanjet from the heater space to under the bench in the middle of house 2. Libbie and I propped up table legs with bricks to raise the bench a little. This was back breaking work. Dinner was stuffed flounder and broccoli.
After dinner I ran out to Lowes and got a 10 foot long 1/2inch galvanized pipe for the heater project.

~

January 14, 2010 Heater moving

Went to the greenhouse early. Nancy and Libbie were working the orchids. Moved the heater down the skinny aisle using 4 water pipes. After it was set up I went home and picked up 20 bricks for the base. After setting the heater on the bricks I next started running the gas line. Needed a 6 inch nipple instead of the 10 inch I was using since the pipe is too long going to the end wall. This will shorten it 4 inches. Libbie and I went to RE Michels for 18 inch ductwork and 4 inch exhaust pipes. They didn't have the heavy wall 4 inch so we only got the 18 inch. Visited Furniture 4 Less and also Consigning Design looking at beds. We bought one at Furniture 4 Less for \$249. It's alarming that my Schwab card is within \$250 of the limit. We used the trailer to take the bed frame home. Afterwards we went to home depot for the 6 inch nipple and then had dinner at La Cocina. We had the Quesadilla's again but I did not order a Margarita. Too much food!!!!

~

January 15, 2010 greenhouse

Busy day in the greenhouse hooking up the wiring to the heater. In the late afternoon Libbie and I went out to get the 18 inch duct work for over the aisle. They didn't have the 26 gauge 4 inch exhaust pipe so I'll have to use some Home Depot 30 gauge. For dinner tonight we just had some soup. I wasn't really hungry.

~

January 16, 2010 Carmen

I worked a little on the wiring for the heater before going home. We left for Carmen at 11:40. It was the best Carmen I have ever seen. So realistic. She sings, she dances and she acts like a slut. Wow, the complete package. Alagna cracked on one night during the flower song but it was still a good performance. I tried several times with various managers to trade my coupons for an encore performance ticket but I didn't get anywhere. We really enjoyed this performance. We came home and had shrimp and broccoli for dinner.

~

January 17, 2010

It rained hard last night but was clear this morning. We checked online and Joe's flight to Atlanta landed on time. We left home at 9:40 when we saw it landed in Raleigh early. It was supposed to land at 10:06. Emptied the tools from the car and picked him up at Terminal 2. We needed the trunk since he had a suitcase and a carryon. We went through the Bojangles divethorough and got biscuits for breakfast. They were sinfully good. In the later afternoon I went to the greenhouse and wired the Hot Dawg in house 2 while Lib and Joe went grocery shopping. We had a pizza party here. We met Cole's fiance, Emilie. She's a quiet but a very nice girl. We liked her, she's a keeper. Johs's little boy ran all over the place. He's very active and was a lot of fun. We had Mark, Josh & Kelly, Cole and Emilie plus Joe. There was a ton of pizza ingredients left over.

~

January 18, 2010 more pizza

Picked up the vent stack from Home Depot and hooked it all up. Went outside and installed the cap. The stack needs supporting. I framed an opening in the end wall and used the preformed tin from home depot to cover it. The great news is that it has a 4 inch round hole in it that I did not have to cut. The pipe slipped right in.
Dinner tonight was another pizza because we had the ingredients. Working on a Lonestar article for Marjorie.

~

January 19, 2010 head cold maybe

I had lots of work to do at home. Finished up the articles for Marjorie in the Lonestar newsletter then worked with Kathy on the layout and finding out about hospitality. Went to the greenhouse and put a support on the vent stack then hooked up one side of the aisle with an 18 inch duct. I left there for lunch then went to the grocery store and never returned. Wrote an article for the Ohio magazine. I feel like I'm getting a cold. don't know what's wrong. Maybe I'm eating too much. My new flannel shirts from Kohls feel tight. Dinner tonight was pasta I picked up in the grocery store this afternoon on old geezers day.

~

January 20, 2010 properties

Brenda is bringing the properties this morning. I received an eMail that said she would be here at 10. Libbie wants to come home from the greenhouse as well. We've been tracking Mark and Joe on Google. They're in Jackson, MS last night. We enjoyed the visit with Brenda and Mahlen. They're visiting their daughter in Smithfield and also looking at real estate in the Smithfield area. It's still a warm day but not as warm as yesterday. Dinner was Briyani with chicken. Yumm.

~

January 21, 2010 miserable cold

I'm under the weather today with a full blown cold. Lots of sniffles. I felt this coming on for several days. I'm enjoying reading my new book, Fair Maiden but so far it's predictable. A 16 year old makes acquaintance with an old guy who pays her to model for him. I think we know where this is going. At the greenhouse I hooked up the tubing on the new heater. I may have to make a better way to clamp the transition piece onto the 24 and the 18 inch tubing. For now I'm using a piece of wire but this won't be adequate. I'm really miserable with this cold. The heater wouldn't come on but I didn't pursue it since I was cold and miserable. There's a cold raining falling outside. Libbie went to do a talk at the Fuquay womans club tonight. Dinner was a bowl of soup. I ran out to Krogers for milk but I also picked up a reeses peanut butter egg. This isn't good. Took some drixoryl before bedtime.

~

January 22, 2010 Cold lingers

I had a rough sleep last night. Woke up at 1, 2, 3 and 4 before falling asleep. I took a drixoryl which helped the running nose but gave me a buzz. I couldn't lie still and felt sorry for Libbie sleeping next to me. Went over to the greenhouse and found why the new hot dawg wouldn't start. There's an on/off switch on the gas valve. now I'm disappointed by both the amount of heat coming out and the fanjet air velocity. Have ordered a smaller belt at Grainger to see if this fixes the problem.

Picked up a 3L260 fan belt at Graingers and installed it.

Also put a solid panel on the cool cell side of the fanjet. The intent is to concentrate gathering of heat to send down the tube. I'm still disappointed by the airflow. I don't know why it's so low. Came home, layed down and fell asleep after taking a Sudafed. This cold is killing me. When I awoke I finished reading the Fair Maiden book by Joyce Oates. It was s traditional predictable book until the ending which was a surprise. Dinner was BLT with Avocado. Not as good as one with Tomato, my opinion. Tracking is showing Joe at the Phoenix airport tonight. He had tickets back for today and Sunday. We guessed that after a week with Mark he would be ready to go back sooner rather than later.

~

January 23, 2010 greenhouse

Last night we measured the CFM and temperatures of the new heater and compared it to the old. Improvement is needed. This morning I went to the greenhouse and hung the 18 inch portion of the new Fanjet tube. I think we will replace the combined 24 and 18 inch sections. For some reason the transition is causingg an extreme drop in pressure resulting in us not being able to get the heat distributed. I drove to Northern Tool looking for an agricultural thermostat but had no luck so I bought a simple thermostat in Home Depot. Libbie and I ran the wire and put the overhead heater in House 2 on the separate thermostat. Dinner was some Tony Romas ribs with Cabernet Sauvignon and steamfresh corn. I'm feeling much better today as the remnants of my cold leave.

~

January 24, 2010 tax time

No greenhouse today. Worked in the morning On the tax forms and W2, W3 generation. As usual the printer was the bottleneck. I usually have a hard time getting the forms to line up correctly in the laser printer.

It took several passes to get this to work correctly. Libbie made her outstanding pizza tonight using the frozen dough ball from last weekends pizza party. She thinks she ruined it with pepperoni and bacon. I liked it except for the calories. Packing for the trip was easy. I threw together a bunch of clothes in the suitcase and then started gathering tools. I was able to use my online list of things to bring to assist with packing tools and things in the egg crate.

~

January 25, 2010 travel

It rained overnight. It was still raining this morning so I decided to leave at 8:30. The roads were pretty wet up until the 70 cutoff in Garner. When I reached I-95 there were patches of blue and finally in SC the sky was all blue. Stopped in Florence for 2.47 gas and then bought 2.49 gas at exit 4 in Georgia just before the FL-GA border. Travel was congested but moving through rush hour Orlando. This time around I kept a log of times at key cities/exits so I can have a reference for future travel estimates. I went straight to Publix at 7:30 and arrived in the condo at 7:45 PM. It was an all around easy trip. Dinner tonight was the McDonalds stop I made at Exit 4 in Georgia. Didn't need anything else.

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January 26, 2010 Sarasota

It was a little chillier today than I expected. I ended up not doing much

today. Did a lot of online reading and also read yesterdays Herald Tribune which I picked up at Publix last night. I went out and bought paint at Home Depot in the afternoon then stopped in an oil change place on Clark for a "16.99" oil change which ended up costing 29.99 with shop fees and oil disposal fees and also to get Castrol instead of generic oil. I did this because the change oil light (Maint light) came on on my trip Monday and it was going to be cold at home. Dinner was a frozen non meat ribs from Morningstar. This was a buy one get one free at Publix Monday night.

~

January 27, 2010 carpet cleaning

The carpet guy came at 9:30 this morning. He was supposed to be here at 9:00 but was late. The shampoo looks great. I had the bedroom and the living room done for \$70. Left the doors open and the fans running while I went down to Venice. Got gas for 2.73 at the Mobil just before McDonalds. Picked up lunch at 2:00 in McDonalds. Cheeseburgers were the special at .69 as told to me by an old guy standing in line. He also pointed out the senior coffee which was .69 or something like that.

For dinner I had a delicious Spicy Caribbean Chicken dinner which I picked up in Walmart. This was a treat. Earlier today I took a walk to the prudential office to sign a lease then walked all the way around Stoneybrook. It was a pleasant stroll. I'll do it again tomorrow. Libbie took a greenhouse trip this evening after dark because she didn't think Bertha would come on. I thought all was well with the Hot Dawg. She had doubts. The Bertha crossover temp was lowered which was why she didn't see it come on. It was too warm.

~

January 28, 2010 heaters, paint, hurry up

Libbie called this morning to report that Bertha was not coming on even though the relay is indicating this heater is being selected. I was in the middle of putting the new solenoid and door connector in the refrigerator and had water all over the floor and was not a happy camper. I talked to her later with a solution that took the card out of the picture and allowed the new thermostat to control the Hot Dawg in house 1 as well as the overhead heater in house 2. I looked at the weather picture and made a decision to speed up the repairs and head home.

The bad news is that it is almost 80 here. I painted the hallway which really came out nice. The new paint matches perfectly. I got the refrigerator water supply working without leaks. I had to run out to Walmart late at night for a roll of teflon tape to stop the leaks

in the threads of the shower nozzle. This fixed the dripping around the nozzle threads. I got everything packed up then took a walk around Stoneybrook and through one of the single family home streets. The alligators are all out in this weather. I finished the laundry and had Spicy Caribbean chicken for dinner. The Scooba wouldn't work when I pressed the power button which is a bummer. I washed the floor with the mop and then took the mop onto the back porch and washed the table. All this work was expedited because I want to drive home tomorrow and help Libbie. Not sure why the Loge controller is not functioning. The snow and ice worries me.

~

January 29, 2010 driving

I decided I would leave whenever I woke in the morning to pee. I woke up at 2 AM after about 4 hours of sleep. I laid in bed a while then finally stirred about 2:30 and got in high gear. I made coffee and filled the thermos, threw the leftover food into the car and hit the road at 3:24. It was 57 degrees out. The drive up I-4 was beautiful. Only me and the big beautiful full moon. I sipped coffee, set the cruise and listened to a mix of Dvorak, Wagner, Gershwin and other choices on the SD card in the radio. Jacksonville was no problem. I got there around 7:15. Traffic was getting heavier but still moving at 70 or so. There was a little bit of rain on the North side of the city. Once North of Jacksonville there was no traffic to speak of which was quite surprising. I stopped in Kingsland, GA Exit for gas and a McDonalds Bacon egg and cheese biscuit. Stopped again in Florence for gas and also a McChicken sandwich from the dollar menu. It was like a fish filet on a bun. It was beautiful in Florence - sunny, blue skies and 52 degrees. Hard to believe it's supposed to snow. Got home at 2:15 and went with Libbie immediately to see why the Hot Dawg was not coming on which is what she told me. Looked at the Hot Dawg and it was OK. Looked in the thermostat control box over the doorway and it had a broken wire on the Hot Dawg 2. Fixed the wire and all was well. Next I removed the Loge controller and took it home. The orange wire seems to be broken. Will look at it when home. Did the bills and mail. Looked at the new PC boards and also the relays that came from Hosfelt. Libbie is making Chili for dinner. We're ready for the big snow. All greenhouse heaters are in good condition as well as their respective controllers.

The snow started around 7 PM. Around 8 the greenhouse was only at 54 so Libbie and I drove out there in the snow. The louvers on the new hot dawg were not fully open. I opened the louvers, did some temperature measurements with the IR probe. Not much heat coming out of the ducts. The burners are on full. It's only 29 outside. Libbie adjusted the second thermostat to come on at 62. It seems to be cycling

between 54 and 60 as reported by the telephone.

~

January 30, 2010 snow

We got a good coating of snow but the driveway only seems to have 1 to 2 inches even though the airport is reporting 5 inches. Five inches is wishful thinking by somebody. I hooked up the laptop to the TV this morning because they pre-empted GMA in order to show morons reporting on snow. We watched the streaming feed from Sarasota which was surprisingly good. I worked all day today assembling the two PCB's that came in while I was gone. I'm out of CPU's so I salvaged one from an old controller. I'm getting close to firing p one of the cards. Dinner as well as lunch was Libbie's home made chili.

~

January 31, 2010 Snow

This morning around noon I went with Libbie to the greenhouse. The roads weren't too bad if you o slow. Everything looked great. The place was warm and toasty. I stopped on the way back at the BP and bought a Sunday paper. After reading the paper I tried working on the new controller PCB. The good news is the LCD works but not the keyboard or temperature. I worked on the LCD pins cleaning up an old LCD and removing the wires and solder then fastening it to the PCB with solid pins. Dinner was Libbie's fantastic pizza one again. I really enjoyed the Grammy's tonight.

~

February 01, 2010 healthcare

I was disappointed with my retirement payment. It was short \$82 for the increase in healthcare premiums. This is bad news. I worked on the controller some more and got the keyboard working. Apparently I reassigned the keypad I/O. After rewriting the software and getting this working I found a short in the temperature line. Fixed this and it all works. Libbie packed for her trip tomorrow. We made another trip to the greenhouse today. While Libbie was out the Post Office truck came with the AVSA pins. I thought it was Libbie returning but I ended up missing the truck. Ran after it and caught up in the back of Buckingham. Got the pins!!!!

~

February 02, 2010 planes

Because the roads may be icy we left at 5:40 for Libbie's 7:30 flight. The temps were above freezing so we did OK on our trip. It started raining later in the morning. Libbie's plane was on time all the way though she didn't call me to tell me this. Went to the greenhouse and met the UPS truck who had the convection tube. Installed the tube and punched the holes. It works much better with the larger tube - I seem to have more airflow. Now I need to rewire the thermostats to get back to the original configuration. Picked up my groceries today.

~

February 03, 2010 Kahlo

A beautiful day. I worked on cutting holes in the controller case then mounted everything inside. It works and looks great. Went to the greenhouse and measured for a shield on the fan belt since the belt is getting worn by the heat blowing on it like it was in house 1. I prepared the letter for an advertising plea for the affiliates. Dinner was fried chicken which I got in Krogers. Not bad taste but not good for you.

I watched the movie precious this afternoon. what an emotional trip!!! This was the best movie I have ever seen.

~

February 04, 2010 greenhouse, Kahlo in mail

Went to the greenhouse while Jennifer was there today. Put the hangers on the under the bench tube. Did not have a box extender for the shutter plug which I wanted to deal with today. Came back later in the afternoon and installed a shield on the fanbelt of Fanjet 2 and also a cover on the generator relay box but it's a little bit short. Need to cut an extender. The controller went out via priority mail to Maine this morning. Jennifer packaged it up for me. It cost 7.50 to send it priority. It should get to Maine Saturday or Monday but there's a major snowstorm expected to hit the MidAtlantic this weekend. DC is expected to get 20 to 30 inches of snow. Dinner was fried chicken from Krogers.

~

February 05, 2010 wet and cold

This morning I worked on the APRS transmitter. Although it's transmitting, I don't see the packets showing up on aprs.fi. I think the antenna leaves much to be desired. Need to try it in the car with a ground plane. I also have an amp for it but do not have a cable to connect the amp to the radio. I also discovered that Mars hangs up after a while. Went

to the greenhouse and played out in the driving rain, enlarging the ditch at the end of the pipe. The pipe seems to be filled with sludge. We need to do something different. Hooked up LOGE and all seems to be working. Dinner was chicken curry that Libbie left in the fridge this week. It was great.

~

February 06, 2010 blogs

A little catch up this morning on my blog and life bits. Paid some bills for Helen and analyzed how I can pay Visa. I'm about \$500 short but AVSA owes me lots of money. Am going to hook up the APRS in the car to see if I can reach aprs.fi. The car provides a good ground plane I hope.

Not true about the ground plane. Drove the rig to the greenhouse with the antenna on the roof. Could not see my packets on aprs.fi.

The

greenhouse was doing great. Hot Dawg 2 was off, the load was being handled by Hot Dawg 1. It was 37 outside which was pretty cold.

Left at 11:15 for the opera. Stopped by Northern Tool and got a wheel for my chair. It was the last one left. The opera was fantastic, Simon Boccanagra. Placido and James Morris were very good, the Verdi music carried the opera as usual. It was long, 4 hours worth. Stopped by a very crowded Trader Joe's on the way home to pick up something for dinner. For dinner I microwaved a Trader Joes Canneloni.

~

February 07, 2010 busy day, cold greenhouse

Slept a little late today. Got out for the paper but Paul called around 9 wanting violets and dish gardens. I called Lib who called Jennifer. I met Jennifer at the greenhouse. She had a customer and also packed up Paul's order. The greenhouse went down to 54 last night. I inspected the heating and found that Hot Dawg2 FanJet threw the fan belt. Fixed it and also installed the correct relay in Hot Dawg2. While down

there I put a switch in the shutter line replacing one plug and also eliminated the extension cord for the inflation in house 1. I also put a cover on the generator relay box. Went to Home Depot and picked up the rest of the box extenders and switch covers to do the rest of the shutters, heaters, fan jets and stuff. Went back to the greenhouse at 5 and verified that everything was working then went home and wrote a series of articles for the MAAVS Memo. Lots to do. Still need to create some ads. Today is the super bowl but I never watch that. I'm not even interested in the commercials. I'll catch them tomorrow on the morning shows.

~

February 08, 2010 wonderful day in the neighborhood

It was a wonderful day in the neighborhood at Bluebird. Jennifer, Joy, JoAnn and Jack were all there as well as 2 violet customers who were bird people friends of Jennifer. I changed the plugs on 2 more shutters. Put switches in place of plugs but my label maker ran out of label tape. I went back later in the day and cut some wood pieces to start making the guard. I'll probably go back tomorrow and do another shutter then put the screen on. Libbie comes back tomorrow. We're supposed to get rain but further north it will be snow. Whether Libbie gets back on time tomorrow will be interesting. I spent lots of time in eMail conversations with Brenda and Kathy Lahti and also Libbie and a few others. Interesting world we live in. I ordered the connectors today so I could use the amp with the micro trak. I may order another microtrak with onboard radio and an amplifier. I deposited the rent check in the credit union today then used the money to pay the Schwab Visa bill.

~

February 09, 2010 BWI snowstorm, flying

I went over the greenhouse and installed the guard screen on both sides of the fanjet. I used the new craftsman ratchet set to tighten the bolts. It looks pretty good. Jack came over and watched me drill the fanjet for the bolts and talked to me about the water heater. I took a look at the plumbing and decided the whole thing needs replacement. Libbie took off from PVD on time this morning but her 2:30 out of BWI didn't leave until 3:15. She said the BWI airport closed at 3 in anticipation of the storm. She was one of the last planes out of there. I met her at RDU at 4:20 instead of the 3:35 arrival time. I watched the flight online from home before deciding to head out. It was cold and rainy but she was glad to be home. We went out for dinner to La

Cocina since it was Margarita night which is Mondays and Tuesdays. We had the standard Quesadilla and a Margarita.

~

February 10, 2010 windy, cold

Rounded up some tools and went to the greenhouse around 10 today. Libbie isn't feeling well but she's there. I replaced one more shutter plug and the plug on the house 2 overhead Modine. I still have the Fanjet plug in house 2 to replace. This one is tricky since a wall wart plugs into here for the solenoid on the cooling pads water supply. In the PM we went to Trader Joes for some essentials then Ace Hardware for a washer to cover the 3/4 inch hole so I can use a 1/2 inch romex clamp. It's terribly windy today. We returned at 5:30 to check all the plastic to make sure nothing was damaged on the cool cell coverings. I discovered I had inadvertently left the breaker off on the heaters for house 2, 3 and 4. I don't think it effected anything. Dinner was fresh pasta from TJ's with Marinara sauce. I hate winter, It's so cold out.

~

February 11, 2010 more electrical work

Went over to the greenhouse this morning for electrical work. Nancy and Libbie were busy on Orchids. I replaced the plugs on the shutter and the Modine. Finished it up in time for Libbie to turn the shutters and fan on for a humidity dump. I also worked on replacing a section of 6 foot wide bench but ran out of nails. Will get nails tomorrow. Dinner tonight was Briyani which was very good. This finishes the house 2 wiring. Still have a few outlets in house 1 before I get to the back houses.

~

February 12, 2010 busy day

Mailed the Microtrak back to VHS in Napa. Went from the Post Office to Home Depot for nails then to the greenhouse where I finished the new bench section. Mounted a pipe to support the flashing under the bench for the Hot Dawg in house 2 to stop hot air from coming up through the bench. ad an accident as the right angle drill hit my cheekbone as it ran away from my hands and locked up in run mode. It hurts. After lunch Libbie and I went to Walmart and bought tray tables. We also

got some groceries and milk. At home I assembled the tray table holder as Libbie cleaned the front closet to make room for the tables. She took a load of stuff as well as the old bedframe to Goodwill. Dinner tonight was Curlys pulled pork barbecue, tomato base, on buns with the Broccoli we picked up in Walmart. It's nice broccoli. I worked on the TAVS ad and sent a letter to the MAAVS board to ask for entertainment sponsorship. We're supposed to have 2 to 4 inches of snow tonight. I'll believe it when I see it.

~

February 13, 2010 RF packets

I got a good day in working on MARS. I built a cable for the radio and TT4 and was able to transmit out to the server in Finland on aprs.fi. Next step is to make the AVR read the temperature probes and put it in the telemetry stream. Listened to La Fille Du Regiment from the Met while doing the RF and computer work. The snow is very light and melting into the warmer afternoon.

~

February 14, 2010 more packet

Put some more time in on the packet system. I now have temperature in the stream. I'm using text mode which puts the headers onto the data simplifying things. Picked up a paper this morning but not many coupons or content. Dinner was Libbie's super pizza.

~

February 15, 2010 packet

Did not go to the greenhouse today. Instead I worked on convention stuff and also tried some more on the packet software. I now have the humidity reading correctly. Yeah! Unfortunately the temperature probes are not doing their thing. I'm getting "185". Dinner tonight was Briyani.

~

February 16, 2010 TAVS

Worked some more on the packet temperatures. I seem to have lost all ability

to send text. Violet group met here at 12:30. Sheila is doing a nice job trying to get control of this group. Jennifer is a pain in the ass - she would rather talk than listen and interrupt with stupid non relevant crap. It was a good meeting none the less. Watched some of the Westminster show tonight before going to bed around 10. Libbie has a bad cough. Dinner tonight was a Trader Joe's frozen chicken dinner over Lima Beans. Very good.

~

February 17, 2010 greenhouse

Libbie watched the ending of the Westminster show this morning instead of WRAL. We switched to GMA at 7. I went to the greenhouse and installed 2 more switches. I only have Hot Dawg 1 left to convert other than the last 2 houses. Tried the packet stuff some more diagnosing what happened. Text mode seems to have stopped. Libbie's cold has gotten much worse.

~

February 18, 2010 Fire Safety conclusion

I went to the greenhouse today and finished up the last outlet conversion. This time it was the Hot Dawg in House 1. All plugs on Romex have been removed. This completes my fire safety repairs. Libbie did not go to the greenhouse. Nancy and Jennifer were there. I walked out with Nancy. She suggested to get Home Depot paint samples for outdoor paint for the Bluebird sign. Good idea. Dinner was New England Clam Chowder and a bean burger.

~

February 19, 2010 toilets, AVSA website

Today was AVSA day as well as toilet repair. Spent some time on the phone with Arlene at the new nursing home for Aunt Helen. Arlene approves of the place. I also made up a front page notice for the AVSA website mentioning that the convention deadline is quickly approaching. Did not have much luck with the humidity probe. I'll probably have to break out some of the functions separately. Libbie is sick today, no greenhouse for her. I went to Krogers and picked up a roasted chicken and potato salad. Also bought a mac and cheese for her. She put it on a plate but did not eat it. She said she'll reheat it tomorrow and eat it. I bought the toilet parts for our toilet today. IT's leaking

at the wax seal. Thank goodness the plywood underlayment is solid. It did not rot from the water leak.

~

February 20, 2010 toilets

I worked on the humidity piece of the one wire functions. The secret was to request the A/D conversions in a pass then come back in subsequent passes to retrieve the voltage values to calc the humidity. This is working quite well. In addition, I'm hitting the apsr.fi server pretty consistently now. Next step is to get the microtrak back and locate this thing over at the greenhouse. I may also try for some weather readings since I have an anemometer and direction indicator. Finished up the toilet in our bathroom. Had to return to Home Depot because the faucet was a compression type instead of a threaded screw on. Got the whole thing functioning now with a new wax seal, new shutoff, all new inside the tank parts and new gasket and tank bolts. In the afternoon after the opera we went to Home Depot with the bluebird from the sign and matched paints. We bought Home Depot sample bottles. Also went to Target for Ribs with broccoli and shiraz wine for a very nice evening. Lib is getting better with her cold but I'm starting to get one. Oh well.

~

February 21, 2010 sign

After getting up early and picking up a paper at 6:45 I got ready for painting. We went over to the greenhouse around noon and painted the sign front and back. I had to replace a board by ripping one of the sewing room shelves in the shed. I set up the saw horses at the greenhouse and did the ripping then replaced the board. Painting went well. Returned later in the day to retrieve my rollers and the paint can. I left them in the sun to dry. We had Libbie's wonderful pizza for dinner. It keeps getting better.

~

February 22, 2010 bird house

I carried the pole up the hill which I previously marked and drilled. Put it in the 2 feet deep hole and pounded it in the ground another 8 inches with the sledge hammer. Finished the thing up by installing the racoon guard and snake guard from hardware cloth. This bird house

is now ready for tenants. We enjoyed soup on the back porch while watching the Bluebirds claim houses. The microtrak came back amazingly. I hooked it up and tried it but was disappointed by performance. I still can't reach the aprs.fi server. I'm giving up on this and will go with the TT4 and a radio of some kind. Dinner was Manicotti that I picked up in Trader Joes. The Trader Joes trip was after going to Northern Tool to get welding rods to build an antenna. I also took a look at garden carts but they were list price.

~

February 23, 2010 signs

Ordered the garden cart online from Northern Tool with free delivery to the store. This is the same one in the store but \$20 cheaper. Did a grocery run to Krogers then we went out to the greenhouse and put the bird back up as well as the three letters that I took down to replace one board. Libbie touched up the paint on the letters. I was tired after this. Aunt Helen moved to Norwood Terrace today. Received a call from Anna at Watchung Ridge in the evening because Vicki went over there and chewed her out for dumping Aunt Helen into Norwood. Vicki needs to learn to settle down. She gets too hyper. Dinner was leftover ribs, chicken and broccoli.

~

February 24, 2010 congestion, cold

My cold is not too bad today. Lots of sniffing but I slept well and have some congestion. I hope it doesn't get any worse than this. Will try building the antenna and a walkie talkie cable so I can try the Radio Shack Walkie Talkie as a greenhouse transmitter.

Dinner tonight
was pasta from Trader Joes.

~

February 25, 2010 Cold

Miserable morning. I'm sniffing and hacking away. Called Norwood Terrace about Helens phone and getting her room changed. They could only help with the phone. Took a sudafed then went to the Hilton for a 10:30 meeting. The sudafed worked. When I left it was snowing like crazy but only sticking on the grass and trees. When I left the Hilton it was sunny and dry. What a surprise. Dinner was Briyani. I took some Roitussin

PM to relieve my running nose for sleeping this evening. This cold is terrible stuff.

~

February 26, 2010 lunch birthday party

Libbie took everybody out for Jack, Nancy and Jennifer's birthday at La Cocina. It was a very nice celebration. Before going over I worked on the tables needed for the convention. I walked over to the restaurant. It was a little chilly but I think it was good for the remnants of my cold. Afterwards I went up the hill and installed the birdhouse next to the Glembocki Oak. Because of the big lunch we had Progresso soup for dinner instead of a large meal.

~

February 27, 2010 Pork Chops

Another nice day. We stayed home and listened to La Boheme from the Met this afternoon then went to Home Depot for the pole and vent pipe and threaded rod for the next bird house. This was given to us by Joy and will be installed in back of the greenhouse. Dinner was Pork Chops, Apple Sauce, and Yam with Shiraz.

~

February 28, 2010 Veronicas Room

Got the paper early. Was out and on the road before 7 AM. Was quite surprised to see our neighbor Larry walking in his driveway before 7. I think he was fetching the paper from the driveway. Stayed home this morning and did some computer work before leaving at 2 for the theater. We saw Veronicas room which was creepy. It is by the author of Rosemarys Baby. Afterwards we had Libbie's wonderful pizza.

~

March 01, 2010 bird house

Went over to the greenhouse and installed the bird house after I fixed the front door with an extended. HAd to take two trips because first time I forgot to bring the ventpipe. Finished up the job and it looks pretty good. Now the brush needs trimming around the thing. Dinner

was Chile Renelo which was quite spicy and very good.

~

March 02, 2010 busy

Tis morning I picked up the garden cart at northern Tool then did the grocery shopping on the way home. It's supposed to rain this afternoon then turn to snow. Uggh. Went over to the greenhouse with my chain saw and cleared brush around the new bird house. Libbie helped me as we took down some small trees in the compost pile and knocked down the brush. Came home and finished assembling the garden cart which I started earlier. It's cold, about 39 degrees. I used the cart to pick up branches around the yard. I like the cart and especially like how much it holds. Dinner was curry shrimp on Jasmine rice. It was very very spicy. Talked to Nancy Hayes about letting Ann Marie stay here during the convention. She highly recommended Ann Marie and Lenny so I answered her query with a yes. I had been holding off answering her since I didn't know and I was leary.

~

March 03, 2010 Apex settlement

Woke up to a dusting of snow on the grass and trees. The roads seem to be wet although Libbie said there was some slush on Downing Place. It was all gone by afternoon. I went out with the garden cart and picked up the front yard. Lots of fallen sticks. Our \$750 settlement check came for the Apex Fire evacuation. This was good because I spent \$470 registering us for the Gesneriad convention in Vancouver. This will be fun. I'm going to try making air reservations using our Score card and we'll pay cash for our rental car. Dinner tonight was Chile Releno while Libbie had a Lasagna meal. Afterward I watched but fell asleep during American Idol. It was the girls night. There aer 10 of them left.

~

March 04, 2010 CU, BAC-W

A beautiful sunny day but a little chilly around 50. I returned the left over vent pipe to Home Depot to credit Libbie's credit card. On the way back from there I stopped into the Credit Union and deposited the settlement check. In the meantime I initiated a \$1500 transfer to Scottrade and put in a limit order for 100 shares of BAC-W. There is

a divvy chase going on since it goes ex on March 10. I paid 23.40 but could have got it for around 23 just a week ago. Oh well, I'm now up to 700 shares. I wanted to push the quarterly payment to over \$300. It's now \$306. I really need to add to my RGNC holding since I only have 200 and it's tax advantaged but I wanted an increase in my BAC payment so the BAC won. When I came home I took the new cart into the front yard and picked up branches and trimmed the holly bushes. I took it into the backyard and moved a load of logs from around the shed in that part of the cleanup. The exercise is good and the yard is getting cleaned up a little. My Individual port total is now a little over \$209k. This is happiness.

JoAnn stopped over at 5:45 and we went to Litmus. Our model is Angel, a very pretty 28 year old college graduate who is married but husband is unemployed. I enjoyed the sculpting. It has been a while since I've been here. The pose is easy and is coming out OK. JoAnn seemed to like it as well. She's already talking about the next pose. While I was gone this evening Libbie painted the hallway which has been waiting a while.

~

March 05, 2010 First Friday, ACE

Another nice day. I redid the table layout relocating the registration table into the foyer area and sending it all to Kathy. Went over to the greenhouse and worked on cutting trees in back until my chain saw threw the chain. Left intending to return but never made it back. After lunch Libbie and I went to Ace where I bought a spreader and fertilizer for the back lawn. I made Caffe Luna reservations for this evening at 8 PM. We left after 6 and first went to the Progress Energy Center. Looked at some of the art in the Raleigh Fine Arts display then took some pics of Jims first place sculpture, Diva. Next we drove to the Moore square parking deck and walked to the Bank lobby for the Nicoles gallery exhibit but it was closed. Went to ArtSpace and had wine, talked to Paris and looked at some art before going over to our dinner reservation at 8 for Caffe Luna. I had 2 glasses of Merlot and the Filet Mignon at Caffe Luna. It was excellent.

~

March 06, 2010 Crazy Heart

Stayed home and did AVSA stuff working on extracting pdf pages for the MAAVS website. Listened to the opera which was Attila. In the middle of it I went to Home Depot for hallway paint and a roller tray. Finished up the foyer paint job then settled down for the movie Crazy HEart.

Dinner was pork chops, yams, apple sauce and Shiraz. A nice day.

~

March 07, 2010 Oscars

Woke a little late today but didn't sleep well because of the wine. Got the paper at 7:30 and read it until mid morning when I went outside to do yard work. Trimmed the roses and raked the lawn, picked up sticks and cut dead wood next to the house. In the afternoon I updated the MAAVS website with convention stuff before settling in to watch the Red Carpet on E then the Oscars. Fell asleep somewhere after Monique's award but woke to see Jeff Bridges, Sandra Bullock and Kathryn Bigelow awards. We went upstairs to bed sometime after midnight. In the meantime, today during the day I agreed to subsidize Ann-Marie's registration for \$100. Libbie made her wonderful pizza again. We had it a little late since she forgot to preheat the oven.

~

March 08, 2010 stamps

This was a very productive day. I took the come along up to the Oak in the back and tried moving the trunk. It moved a little bit before the handle broke. This was sad. I scanned the AVSA songbook this morning then mailed it to Richard. I made two room reservations for the band and also called Amy at AVSA to pay \$50 on Lenny's and Ann-Marie's registrations. I don't know why I did this. Scanned an application for bags from Whole Foods, scanned the sales tax license for Gorrell who wanted it and also scanned the receipts from My Office Depot and Post Office trips. Bought postcard stamps when I mailed the AVSA song book. I also picked up some address labels for the cards. While in OfficeMax I spotted a dark chocolate Mars bar so I bought it to try. It was quite good - dark chocolate coating over a caramel center. Libbie got her recall papers for the Prius and also a nice surprise. Toyota is extending the oil change interval to 10,000 miles from 5,000.

~

March 09, 2010 gravel

Took a look over at the greenhouse this morning because Libbie had the driveway guy there to fix the deep ruts in the gravel by the sign. He smoothed it out with a Bobcat and was hauling crusher run onto the surface with his dump truck. The Violet group came over today. Sheila

is really organized. She printed my list out from last night and had it at the meeting. Sylvia talked about Trailers. After the meeting we loaded JoAnn Raymers car with goody bag stuff.

After the meeting

we went over to the greenhouse to look at the driveway. It looks good.

I took some pictures then we went to the grocery store. Dinner was a Krogers roast chicken with yams. In the evening we watched the woman on American Idol.

~

March 10, 2010 comealong handle

This morning I went to Trader Joes and got Oranges and some frozen dinners. At home I fertilized the grass in the back using the new spreader which works pretty good. I ordered a replacement handle for the comealong this morning from the tool barn in Iowa. Dinner was pork chops, yams and apple sauce. We picked up the pork chops yesterday in Krogers as Managers Specials.

~

March 11, 2010 avsa

Another busy day of answering eMails working on convention activities. The Triangle Gardener confirmed our dates of April 10 at 1:30. The sun broke through this morning although they claim we won't see it for the next 4 days. I hooked up the new chain to my saw and went up the hill and cut up the oak tree so that it was no longer on the fence line. Now I need to pick up a couple of fence posts and dig out the old ones before stretching the barb wire across the back. My new handle for the comealong is scheduled to be delivered on Saturday. I need this to stretch the fence. I had some chicken and a slice of bread before leaving for sculpting at 6 AM. JoAnn drove herself and got lost on the way there. I really like Angel, our model. She's pretty, smart and personable. She also has a very pretty body for modeling. While I was gone Libbie painted more of the blue trim in the foyer. It really looks great.

~

March 12, 2010 worms

I did catchup work on the computer today. My new comealong pole comes tomorrow. Dinner was pork chops with yams from Harris Teeter. We went

to HT because Libbie wanted to go to Wild Birds for worms. Enjoyed the store.

~

March 13, 2010 fence

The new come along handle came. It's a perfect fit. Went in the back during sprinkles and stretched the fence wire and got the thing attached to the new posts. Did not listen to the opera today because they were doing "the nose". Sounded like noise to me. Dinner was chicken gorgonzola, broccoli and Ravenswood Shiraz. Nice.

~

March 14, 2010 woods clearing

I had a hard time getting up this morning. It's our first on Daylight Savings and after the wine last night I was up from 2 until 5 am staring at the ceiling. After reading the Sunday paper I went outside to work in the yard. Started clearing a path to the back on the East side to access the development behind us since we're getting closed in by Sold homes. Dinner was Libbie's wonderful pizza again.

~

March 15, 2010 Dell laptop

Libbie called to tell me that the Hot Dawg 1 is not working. Went out and removed the fan from the unit. It seems to be stalled. Came home and worked in the woods all day. Located one of the property stakes in the back with our neighbor Al Ports help. Dug through the massive pile of brush next to the old transformer site looking for the other stake which I could not find.

Dinner was a bowl of asparagus and Trader Joes pasta (tortellini). Earlier this morning I broke down and ordered a new Dell laptop. Later in the day I learned the Schwab card was declined for unknown reasons. I called them and had it resubmitted and it went through.

~

March 16, 2010 Work

Did the grocery thing this morning after I checked Sue in with Southwest. Her flight is tomorrow at 9:20 to Providence. Came home and worked on the path to the back along the East side of the property. I reached the back sediment pond after working until 3:30 PM. Wow, a tiring day. Dinner was chicken and Broccoli in simmer sauce over noodles. Very good. Fell asleep during American Idol. Lots of dividends today to pay for my purchase yesterday of 100 shares of RGNC.

~

March 17, 2010 Birdbox

Went to the greenhouse this morning and drilled vent holes into the Joy bird box. Back home I worked my on the path and started digging a hole for the pole for a new bird box. Libbie came home for lunch and we sat on the porch enjoying the spring day. Mailed the last of the convention postcards today. This is day 3 of 3 of the mailing of around 700 cards to nearby states.

Dinner tonight was Manicotti with wild mushroom which was Trader Joes frozen. Libbie cooked it the prescribed time but it came out luke warm.

~

March 18, 2010 Bird house

I went out to the bailey box first thing in the morning and took some measurements. I'm going to use some scrap lumber and build one or two bird houses. Libbie wants one for the violet show. I'll accomodate her.

I

wanted to take it easy today because of sculpting tonight but I went out in the woods and got carried away. I loaded the rickshaw with ladder, pole, hammer and shovel then headed up the hill. Hammered the pole into the hole up to the line I previously marked on the pole. The pole sticks 63 inches above ground and the hole for the racoon guard is 44 inches from the ground. I marked the pole with a sharpie marker and then hammered the pole into a 2 foot deep hole until the mark was even with the ground. Filled the hole in and then worked on brush and twigs cleaning up the general area. I still need to take a clipper up there and trim the smaller saplings. Libbie came home and we had chicken and dumpling soup then I went up the hill with her and installed the racoon guard and snake screen over the guard. Took a short nap before sculpting and also read some more of my Sandra Brown book, "Rainwater". Left at 6 PM and got to Litmus at 6:20. I took some face pics of Angel for my files. She's a nice girl. My legs on the sculpture are awful. I need to do something about that. Below

the knee is either too short or too thin. I suspect too short.

~

March 19, 2010 Whole Food ribs

I finished the birdhouse and carried it up the hill where I mounted it on the pole by the back pond. Afterwards I spent some time picking up branches. I also started a new path up to the middle bird house.

I

spent time on the phone with Fidelity and ordered a rollover of the rest of my TDSP for deposit into Schwab. I will need to deposit the money manually by driving to the Schwab office on Blue Ridge. I hope I'm doing the right thing.

We went to Ace where Libbie bought cups for the birdhouses. I bought some Weed and Feed for the front lawn by the street. Dinner tonight was Whole Food ribs with bone sucking sauce, potato chips and slaw that they were advertising as a package deal for \$15. It turned out the ribs were not cooked. Libbie cooked them like pork chops but they did not have the good marinated flavor. We had shiraz with the meal.

~

March 20, 2010 shade cloth

Built a bird house today for the AVSA Bluebird from scrap wood I had in the shed. It's a clone of a Bailey box. Libbie will paint it blue and i will decorate it. This afternoon we pulled the shade cloths onto the three houses. I had to go home after we did house 3 and get tools to adjust the house 1 fan belt. After tightening the belt the fan worked fan and we used it to blow the shade cloth while we dragged it onto the house. The top on house 3 is very bad. I put my foot through it in one spot. We came home, got cleaned up and then had dinner at La Cocina where we had Margaritas and our normal single Quesadilla.

~

March 21, 2010 busy

We actually woke up early this morning. I went out and got a paper and after reading it hooked up my trailer and went to Home Depot. Picked up the plywood for the AVSA base and also 6 bags of mulch and a gallon of black paint. At home I spread the weed and feed on the front next

to the street. I only did one pass from the mailbox to the cable box before it ran out. It was supposed to do 5,000 SF. Cut the plywood circles but had to go out to Ace to get sand paper to sand the edges. Sanded one plywood but not the other. Dinner was Libbie's pizza. Started redoing the Bluebird web page with the new inventory.

~

March 22, 2010 black paint

I finished sanding the plywood and put both of them on the trailer. Painted both with the roller. They look pretty good. Libbie went with me to Trader Joes. While i got some staples she brought home boxes for the upcoming convention. Dinner was Trader Joes pasta.

~

March 23, 2010 Dig dirt

Did the usual grocery run this morning then worked in the backyard filling holes with dirt. After the winter a few of the old stumps rotted and the ground slumped. I dug the dirt from the future pond and used it as fill. Somebody ate all our goldfish and also ate all the blossoms off the backyard Camelia. I took a picture just yesterday of this bush and the green grass in front of it.

~

March 24, 2010 Dell

I waited around the house most of the day since the new laptop was coming and it needed a signature by Fedex. It finally came at 2 PM after Libbie came home. I spent the next several hours installing updates and applications. Windows 7 has some initial getting used to but I will survive. The biggest problem so far is the printer which won't install. We went out tonight for our anniversary to La Concina and had 4 Margaritas. This was too many. Fell asleep as usual to American Idol. They were getting down to the final 10 tonight.

~

March 25, 2010 GCC

I resumed installing applications on the new computer. Studio 4 and GCC

work great together on the new computer. I heard from John Benziger that he got half of his grant money for the microwaves. This is great news. Changed the tractor oil at the greenhouse and also put the replacement fan motor in house 1. This is the second time I've replaced the motor. At home I changed the Toro oil and mowed the back yard. The IRA check arrived so I drove it over to Schwab on Blue Ridge Rd and deposited it. This was my 401K rollover check which I'm just now getting it put to work. At home Libbie made early crabcakes with tomatoes she bought at the farmers market today. I left at 6 for sculpting after watching the awful live fire pictures of the Chatham county courthouse. The whole building was engulfed in flames. This was our last night at sculpting with Angel. She will be missed. Next week we have a new girl from Chapel hill who has never modeled before.

~

March 26, 2010 computer

Spent a lot of today getting my new computer set up. The biggest challenge was getting the printer running which now works fine. Tried printing signs but this was a failure since the toner wouldn't bind to the card stock. I also had trouble with the contact paper which is a removable type. Not great at all. I had to do a restore on the computer which worked very well. i really screwed the thing up with antivirus and adobe acrobat editor. It failed miserably. I managed to stay home all day today working on the new computer. I did load a few sleaze movies onto the new laptop. these worked well also. Dinner was chicken and bbq sauce with broccoli and sweet potato. Very nice dinner.

~

March 27, 2010 Hamlet

Stayed inside this morning since we had to leave early for the opera. I ran out to Krogers at 11:15 for bread for our sandwiches then while Libbie made the sandwiches I got dressed. We were out the door at 11:30 but around Wade Ave we got trapped on the beltline. I got off at Wade and took Blue Ridge all the way to Glenwood. We apparently avoided the traffic jam and got to the theater a little later than usual. Surprisingly there was no line and the theater was empty. We loved Hamlet. It was full of glorious music, good choruses and nice singing. The lead roles were very good too. Talked with jim Fatata afterwards - he said he wouldn't mind seeing this again. I agree. It was a little chilly today compared to the last few days but at least it was clear. We decided at the last minute to stop at Trader Joes for ribs for dinner. We had the ribs with sweet potato and shiraz. It was a very nice

dinner.

~

March 28, 2010 busy

This was the busiest day of the year. Slept in a little and got the newspaper at 7:30. Found enough quarters to use the newspaper machine. I worked on the Bluebird signs today, printing them on blue paper and then trying various schemes to laminate them. Everything i tried didn't work. I moved on to the map we want for a handout. Using Google I came up with a map and directions to Bluebird. In the meantime I gathered info for Adrienne for sign printing and also talked to Laurene about a confirmation package for designers. It looks like Joe and Christa put in a higher offer and locked in the house. they get it inspected Tuesday. Dinner was Libbie's nice pizza but I didn't stay watching TV tonight. went back upstairs to laminate signs with contact paper I had run out to get at Walmart.

~

March 29, 2010 Prinitng

During Good Morning America this morning I uploaded our printing jobs to PIP in Cary. We have awards forms, Bluebird handouts and the souvenir booklet that needs printing. Drove to PIP at 9:30 and set up the jobs. I waited while they printed the bluebird map and the award form. Paid for everything. Still have to build the program menu's which I did later in the day. Dinner today was chile rejeno while Libbie had a frozen lasagna.

~

March 30, 2010 goody bags

I did the groceries this morning then went with Libbie to JoAnn Raymer's house in Cary for lunch and goody bag stuffing. We enjoyed her house and her hospitality. There's something to be said about downsizing and starting with new furniture in a new community. Everything matches and is tasteful. We filled bags until tired. This is hard work. We came home and had Kroger's pasta with Trader Joe's classic marinara sauce. I watched both American Idol and dancing with the stars. The first elimination of Dancing was last night. Idol will kick somebody off tomorrow. I left the leftover goody bags in the car because I was too tired to unload everything.

~

March 31, 2010 Mariachi

Talked with Sharon Long about wine and the wood she needed for the design staging. I went over to the greenhouse and replaced the shutter spring. I need to put in a drain pipe and cover the ditch for the garage building. This was Mariachi night at La Cocina so we went over there for dinner around 7:30. It was pretty enjoyable. I only had one Margarita, thank goodness.

~

April 01, 2010 Lowes

I did a scouting trip to Lowes today and bought some lawn mower tune up parts. Scoped out the plywood and also saw an Ott brand floor lamp for \$55 but I didn't have my \$10 off coupon with me. Went back at 4 with Libbie and picked up 2 sheets of plywood and also bought the Ott lamp. The wood is for the design shelves at the convention. I reluctantly went to sculpting this evening. The reluctance was for a new model from UNC Chapel Hill who never modeled before. She was beautiful and quite competent. Part of this fact was she is an art major and does life drawing every day. She wanted to experience being on the other side of art modeling. No dinner tonight. I had a bowl of salad before leaving at 6. Came home a little later since Katlin was in traffic and came late so everything was shifted about 30 minutes.

~

April 02, 2010 Ham

I went to Bluebird and worked on the drain pipe at the back of the garage building. Got it buried and tied into the main drain. Took a picture of the entrance flowers and put them on Facebook. JoAnn was visiting this orning so I put her on there as well. Later in the PM we went to the Farmers Market and picked up some potatoes and shrubs for the parking lot mound. Dinner was spiral ham with Shiraz, yams and beets.

~

April 03, 2010 roto tiller

This was a tiring day. I hooked up the tiller to the trailer and hauled everything over to the greenhouse. Needed to bring a 100 foot extension cord for my drill which is needed to start the thing. Tilled the mound then planted the shrubs into greenhouse potting soil on the mound. Planted Osmanthus Goshiki, Loropetalum and Phlox. Keeping the tiller going was a challenge. It would only run at higher speeds and stall out when running slower especially when loaded. Listened to Aida this afternoon but then during the last act I hooked up the weed killer hos attachment and sprayed the back lawn with broadleaf weed killer. Hope it works. I used a granular stuff on the front street lawn and it seemed to do nothing. Dinner was spiral ham, shiraz, broccoli, and yams. We went to Target and Kohls earlier in the day looking for bathroom curtains and a shower curtain.

~

April 04, 2010 easter, ballet

I debated about getting a paper but got one with change we scrounged up. Spread potting soil on the shrubbery on the hill and watered everything in. Took the shutter motor home and got dressed for the ballet. Sylphide was quite a surprise. It was fully staged and beautiful. Dinner was Libbie's great pizza again. I started disassembling the shutter motor this evening.

~

April 05, 2010 busy

This was a busy day. I cut the boards for the staging. Need to make the supports. Uploaded everything to PIP today - the ag forms, banquet menus and restaurant directory. Rebuilt the shutter motor and also went to Lowes for screws. Took all the coins to the credit union coin counter. We had \$58 worth of loose change laying around. The machine took almost everything except for 2 cents. It was a tiring day. The weeds in the grass are finally starting to die. Dinner was simmer sauce on chicken and broccoli.

~

April 06, 2010 busy

Went to the Hilton this morning to get the tables and black cloths straightened out. This was a more relaxing day. Downloaded some sleaze movies then heard that interest rates were going up due to fed action.

I emailed Joe who emailed back that they locked their rates. Did the grocery thing today. The pollen outside is horrible. It's visibly raining down from the trees. Dinner was pasta from Trader Joes. Ordered a fruit bouquet for Vicki today and also picked up a birthday card in Krogers but didn't get it mailed.

~

April 07, 2010 Easy Day

Went to the greenhouse and replaced the shutter motor then worked on putting up two flag holders which I picked up in Ace. Dinner was pitty pan with some of the leftover ham. Watched American Idol tonight. The judges saved Big Mike. Called PIP printing. They said maybe tomorrow for the booklets.

~

April 08, 2010 printer

I did the USPS research and then printed out a price sheet for the Information table. I went to the greenhouse with the second flag pole and tried it. Looked at the landscape planting. Everything still looks great. Trimmed the bushes around the door. After lunch Libbie and I went to PIP to get the booklets and all our convention stuff. We then went to Walmart and got curtains for the bathroom. I was going to skip sculpture tonight but decided at the last minute to go. I'm glad I did because it was a lot of fun. Came home in a driving rain on the beltline which then tapered into intermittent rain once I reached Crossroads.

~

April 09, 2010 Busy

Getting ready for AVSA. I spent the morning on some library posters then sent them to PIP. In the PM Libbie and I went to PIP and picked them up. I also worked on the bathroom curtains at the greenhouse. Libbie mowed the lawn. Dinner was pork chops with apple sauce, steamfresh corn and shiraz.

~

April 10, 2010 Showtime

More last minute powerpoint stuff this morning. Also hooked up the trailer and picked up the tractor at the greenhouse. Mowed the front and back at home before making room for the tractor in the garage. Left at 11 for the Garden show. Not too many people there but we set up in the booth and then did our little presentation. It was not worth it but we enjoyed it. Stopped at Hardees on Western Blvd for lunch. I had Cajun chicken. We left at 5:10 to pick up Kathy Lahti at RDU in the Prius. Because 40 was stopped going Eastbound we chose to take 70 to the Hilton instead of the Interstate. Dropped her at the Hilton at 6:00 then went home to get her shoes which she mailed to us. Arrived back at the Hilton at 7:05 then went out to dinner at 7:30 with the Carters, Davidson, Bill Foster, Sure Ramsuer, Kathy Lahti and 2 others. We went to Caffe Luna where I had the Sea Bass special. It was a lovely night.

~

April 11, 2010 Showtime

I picked up a paper this morning and read it on the back porch. This is the start of the convention. Went to the Hilton at noon to start setting up but there was a pharmacy convention in our work area. We set up our registration at a counter nearby instead and it worked well. Ann-Marie and Lenny were already there. Later in the afternoon I picked Marjorie up at the airport. We took a tour down Ridge Rd looking at Azaleas and Dogwoods before turning around and going to the Hilton. That night I picked up a frozen pizza at Trader Joes which we had later on the back porch. Lenny and Ann Marie had turkey sandwiches they had brought. Tomorrow is the Bluebird tour.

~

April 12, 2010 Bluebird

I went early to the Hilton. This will be the first of many mornings. At noon I went to meet the bus at Bluebird Greenhouse. Unbelievably there were 50 people touring the greenhouse. Libbie sold over \$1,000 worth of stuff. We brought cookies and drinks for the bus crowd. The bus left around 4. We went to the Hilton and met the Nicholas's and went out to Bluebird with them for a private tour. We then went out to the Pit for dinner. It was my first time there. I had a half rack of ribs with sweet potato fries and cole slaw. I also had two glasses of a Shiraz blend wine. It was quite nice and Richard treated us.

~

April 13, 2010 showroom construction

This morning I bought wood at Home Depot to stiffen the plywood. I used the loading dock to cut the wood. Nailed it inside the showroom and built all the shelving to support the niches. Kitty and Sharon were fun to work with. Sharon gave us a bottle of wine and 2 glasses for the work effort. This was very nice. Tonight for dinner we ate at the Skybox. I had a Rueben and Onion Rings. It was excellent. I had the Gaelic beer which Kitty recommended. This was right on! Drove home dead tired.

~

April 14, 2010 Entries

Entries started today. I started with an 8 a.m. meeting of the new board members then I went to the main board meeting. Ran home after this meeting to get the meatballs and cheese balls for Linda who was hosting the Presidents reception. Next I went shopping to AC Moore and Walmart for design materials. I ate at chick Fil A for lunch. Got back and had way too much to do. I ended up only doing 2 designs in 25 minutes. I was not proud of either effort. Tonight I joined Libbie and Sue in Loftons Skybox for dinner. I had the panini wiith turkey and avocado. I liked the reuben better. This was another long night. Libbie stayed at the Hilton in Sue's room.

~

April 15, 2010 Judging

This morning is judging. I spent some time in the hospitality room then watched the opening of the commercial sales and the resulting lineup. Judging completed early so we were able to go into the showroom to start photography around 1:30. We finished early enough to make it to the cash bar at 6. I threw a sports coat over my khaki pants and was good to go. Libbie was the Commercial sweepstakes winner with 35 blue ribbons. Wow. Dinner was chicken wellington which was chicken on some kind of pastry.

~

April 18, 2010 touring

Went over to the Hilton to retrieve Hans' package at 9 a.m. Met Kathy

and others there. We didn't have much to do. Libbie went with Sue and got donuts at Dunkin donuts. At 10 or so we took Kathy, Terry and Jude from Minnesota to the WRAL azalea gardens. They were at the blooming peak and spectacular. We met Dr Ira there. After the gardens we went to Bluebird for a mini tour since Kathy had not been there. After Bluebird we had lunch at the Farmers Market then strolled the produce and shrubbery. Kathy bought a Beauregard sweet potato. Libbie and Sue left us there in the Prius while I took everyone back to the Hilton so they could take the shuttle to the airport at 4. It was a pleasant day. When I got home I took all the packages to the Post Office self serve kiosk and mailed them. In the evening we had 2 Libbie pizzas. Libbie and Sue had wine but I abstained.

~

April 19, 2010 day after

We're getting back into our routine today. I went to the greenhouse to look at a faucet that was leaking. Ended up replacing 2 faucets but a pipe broke as well. Went to Lowes and the Credit Union to deposit my AVSA check. At Lowes I got plumbing parts. Fixed everything but the pipe elbow was too wet to glue. Left it for morning. Sue, Libbie and I went to LaCocina for Margaritas and Mexican dinner. It was a nice celebration to end a week of AVSA. We watched Dancing with the Stars after dinner. Libbie also made shortcake to go with the strawberries we picked up at the Farmers Market.

~

April 20, 2010 groceries

Early this morning I went to the greenhouse and finished the plumbing job by gluing one fitting. Brought the garbage home for the garbage man then took sue to the airport at 9 for her 10:30 flight. Picked up a bagel and coffee in Brueggers then did some catch up on monitoring finances. Bought some KMP and RGNC in the IRA account today. When Libbie came home we had cheese and tomato toast sandwiches then went to Trader Joe's and Krogers.

~

April 21, 2010 back to normal

We're getting back to normal. We had some much needed rain on and off throughout the day today. I finally broke down and ordered a Canon 7d

from an eBay seller. I also ordered a 16 gb CF card from Newegg. It should be interesting to see how many pics the 16 gb holds. I paid Norwood today, had to do it with 2 check since Helens account did not have enough in it to cover, partially because I withdrew 900 earlier in the month. I removed the blower from the attic air handler, started assembling the replacement blower in my workshop. I need to install some rails on the new blower to slide it in place like the old one. Dinner tonight was a frozen chile releno from Trader Joes. Libbie had a mac and cheese. Tonight we watched American idol results show. Tim was kicked off.

~

April 22, 2010 blower

Visited the greenhouse to bring change to Libbie who didn't bring any. JoAnne and Jack were there working away. I finished the pipe job by covering up the ditch under the bench with gravel. On the way there I stopped by Walmart and happily found an oil filter for the Prius. Fram now makes it. Still need a 64 mm wrench with 14 flats. At home i started working on the blower in the attic. Assembled the Grainger motor to the blower then made a template to match the new blower opening. Used the template to draw an outline inside the furnace then used the jigsaw to cut 2 sides of the opening before the blade broke. This is tough work since it's hot, noisy and I have to get into the furnace opening bent at a weird angle. Later Libbie helped me load the tractor on the trailer to bring it back to the greenhouse. We stored it at home to make room for the AVSA tour. Dinner was Briyani with Moose track ice cream for desert. I went upstairs to look at joomla for MAAVS and listen to the radio while Libbie watched TV crap.

~

April 23, 2010 blowers

Could not install the blower this morning after struggling to cut the blower opening. It turns out I have to reroute the gas lines. If I had done this when i started the job would have been much easier since furnace access would be much better. I went with Libbie to BJ's and got note cards and about \$94 worth of other stuff. I have to move the gas lines. Went to Home Depot and picked up some black pipe fittings to get the job done. Dinner tonight was the prime rib from Trader Joes with asian veggies, mashed potatoes and gravy and Pinot noir that we got from the Hilton.

~

April 24, 2010 gas lines

Shut the gas off and disassembled the lines going to the furnace and water heater. Installing the new lines went pretty good except I needed a new appliance connection fitting and another 2 inch x 3/4 inch pipe nipple. Got everything hooked up and tested the gas with soap bubbles and discovered the union was leaking even though this wasn't even disassembled. Took it apart and painted the threads with pipe sealant and tightened everything up again. This time it was leak free. When Libbie came home we listened to the Met Tosca while having lunch on the back porch. We had the leftover beef from last night. During the Met intermission we took a walk in the back. They started lot 68 and were painting and trimming several others. We're almost completely blocked in by homes except for the two ponds. For dinner tonight we ordered Chinese Szechuan which we had with Trader Joe Chardonnay. I finished the AVSA 2010 accounting and sent the spreadsheet off to Brenda, IRwin and Kathy. Still need to audit it.

~

April 25, 2010 Sunday morning

Went out at 7 a.m. and picked up a paper. Watched a nice story on Google doodles on "Sunday Morning"; then went up to start on mounting the blower. Drilled some holes to mount the bolts for the blower then quite so i could get cleaned up for the theater. Went to a very nice performance of Our Town at RLT. I really liked this play. I even went online looking for a text version of the play. Google has half of it in Google Books as a preview but i ended up finding a scanned copy somewhere. Dinner was Libbie's excellent pizza once again.

~

April 26, 2010 runaround

Did some running around today. In the a.m. I went to Saunders Street to photograph the skyline. While there I decided to make a trip to AgriSupply. Bought some roundup and a backpack sprayer. Came home and took a walk out back looking at the weeds that need spraying. On the way home stopped at Trader Joes. We had the TJ's lobster pasta for dinner. Watched Dancing with the Stars while looking at the MAAVS Joomla stuff.

~

April 27, 2010 camera

Installed the blower and wired it up but did not power it up. Will probably do that tomorrow. While waiting for the camera to come I cleaned the driveway. It had lots of candles from the pine trees covering it. this was my first time in a long time that I could get to it because of the convention. I love the camera that came. I was a little disappointed that it was an open box, apparently a kit with lens. The lens was removed and the body sold separate. Other than that, all looks OK. The camera has many features my old camera needed. it does a great job of focusing in the dark. It also has very high ISO capabilities which is amazing. I installed Joomla 1.5 but kept getting an error when I kicked off the install process from the uploaded files. Don't know what's wrong. Dinner was cheese tortellini. We watched both Idol and Dancing with the Stars.

~

April 28, 2010 killing weeds

I worked some more on the Joomla implementation of MAAVS. I managed to get Joomla 1.5 installed and the wine theme implemented for MAAVS. Later in the PM I went out with the Chapin 4 gal backpack sprayer loaded with Glyphosate and proceeded to spray grapevines, poison ivy and gum trees in the woods. The goal is to clear the septic field which is covered with gum tree seedlings. Last year I mowed down the field and this year I want to treat the emerging saplings with a roundup equivalent. In the evening we had crab cake sandwiches then watched the American Idol results show. Sioban was kicked off which I think was not great because I like her voice. Unfortunately she has a tendency to screech. We selected some pics for Lib of AVSA 2010 and uploaded them to Walgreens. They were done at 10:17PM so we decided to go get them. Unbelievably there was a line at the cash register at 10:30 p.m.

~

April 29, 2010 weed killer

For today's sprayer load of weed killer I finished the septic bed then went towards the birdhouse at the Glembocki Oak. dinner tonight was crab cakes with tomato and strawberry for desert. The Joomla wine theme is a no go. Too many errors with photo galleries. I'm going to look for a different violet colored theme.

~

April 30, 2010

Today I worked a lot on MAAVS looking for a photo gallery that will display captions. In the PM I killed myself doing a 4 gal tank of roundup up the East side of our property, killing a lot of grape vines for the path. Dinner was grilled chicken sandwiches. Earlier we tried to get a roast chicken from Krogers but it was after 7 and they were out.

~

May 01, 2010 Armida

I chose not to go in the woods today but instead worked on the MAAVS website. The new graphics gallery I found is working pretty good. It's easy to use and is customizable for thumbnail size. We left at 11:30 for Armida at North Hills. I had an annoying lady next to me who stood up after the opera started and waved to her friend to join her. When the friend arrived they talked through the overture then did text messages. These were the rudest people to date at any of the performances. For dinner we had ribs with Shiraz and rice and beans. Very nice. Cookies and cream ice cream for desert.

~

May 02, 2010 fan, grill

After the Sunday paper I went into the attic and finished up the blower project. I'm disappointed at how the blower is not too much better. I was expecting a lot more. Later Libbie informed me that the grill drip pan fell off. The supports were rusted away so I bought a strip of flat aluminum and fabricated supports for the drip pan. The grill should last a few more years like this. Trying to work on the MAAVS website but the MySQL server keeps crashing at netfirms. Libbie did her usual delicious pizza. It's over 80 outside this evening. We turned the upstairs A/C on.

~

May 03, 2010 Joomla

Put a Facebook entry on Arlene's page for her birthday. It's supposed to rain today but things don't look well on the radar. It's dry and hot

out. Solved some Joomla problems with images and then HTML forms for the subscribe function of the eMemo. The website is getting closer to launch. Dinner was a roast chicken I picked up at Krogers which we had with leftover rice and beans. Did some scrambling moving money to come up with over \$4,000 for the Visa bill. It had the camera and AVSA expenses on it.

~

May 04, 2010 More Joomla

Worked some more on Joomla before going out to the grocery store this morning. Finally launched the MAAVS website with all the basic info. Joomla seems to be doing it well. It's clean and crisp. I like it a lot. I also found how to back it up this afternoon using a plugin that backs the entire site up. It even has a remote backup capability. Dinner was more of the leftover Krogers chicken which we had with soycotash veggies from Trader Joes.

~

May 05, 2010 Mexico

Today is Cinco de Mayo. Trader Joe's was playing Mexican music when I went there to pick up groceries. I also did the Krogers gas run. The stuff is up to 2.75 per gallon with the Krogers reward card discount. Got some nice comments back about the new web site including some humorous ones from John Ragan in Chicago. The issue was my title on Maavs, "Maintainer of best website on the internet". Fun stuff. I did 4 gals of roundup on the front and side today but this time I made it 4% instead of 2%. Let's see if this works better. I used the leftover on the septic field in the back which only lasted for about 10 feet. I also stopped encroachment of the fern patch in the back woods. The grapevines were moving in and I really like the fern patch. We tried to go to LaConcina for Cinco de Mayo dinner but the parking lot was jammed. There was even a line of cars looking for parking. We went home instead and had pasta which I bought earlier at Trader Joes.

~

May 06, 2010 vancouver planning

I scanned Sue Hoffman's pictures today for MAAVS. Also tried to do a restore

with the backed up database on a 4 gig flash drive. We spent a lot of time on the phone with a Score card person trying to book plane tickets from Seattle using our points. Wow, that was an experience. In the PM we went to AAA and picked up tour books of Seattle and Vancouver then spent the rest of the evening reading about Seattle and Vancouver. Dinner was Briyani that Libbie added a cut up pineapple spear to.

~

May 07, 2010 ferns and roundup

I mixed some 4% roundup and did the rest of the septic bed today as well as across the back where the Oaks are resistant against the barbed wire fence. I feel great about this. I also tried isolating our fern patch in the back from our spreading grape vines. I want to kill the grapes from the creek to both paths, the one path going diagonally and the second path going up the sewer line.

We left at 6 PM for First Friday. I have an 8 PM dinner appointment. On Moore Square there was a Jesus choir and band singing. We listened for a while then walked to Visual Arts. We went first to Visual Arts where next door there was a new gallery with art on the walls. Nothing spectacular there. In Visual Art Gallery there was a nice oil of the Krispy Creme store. In Artspace I liked a cafe scene of a Fayetteville St cafe by Tony Capelle. There was an acoustic rock group playing downstairs as well. The noted speical exhibits gallery was an exhibit called stacks and spills.

We ordered 2 rounds of Merlot in Cafe Luna. I had the veal cannelloni special which was very good.

~

May 08, 2010 botanical gardens

I worked this morning trying to do a MAAVS restore on X10 hosting but this was not successful. Its pretty windy today but 90 degrees. We took a walk around looking at some of the grape vines

I killed with roundup

and noticed the wonderfully large grove of ferns we have growing. I attempted to identify them online but then Libbie suggested we go to the NC Botanical garden in chapel Hill. We went there and noticed the signs that this was graduation weekend but fortunately UNC doesn't graduate until tomorrow. We had an enjoyable time in the gardens.

I brought the new Canon 7d and liked how responsive it was but focusing is an issue until I learn to spot focus. We bought a Northern Maidenhead fern for our woods in their self serve plant sale area. On the way out of town we found a Fresh Market where we bought some wine we had tasted as well as parmesan tilapia and asparagus for dinner. After dinner I read my camera manual.

~

May 09, 2010 gardening

Mothers Day. Libbie made some delicious strawberry pancakes for breakfast. They were cut up from yesterday so they juiced a little. She used that juice to make the pancakes and withheld some of the milk. They were thicker than usual but light and yummy. I picked up a Sunday paper earlier and read it while she went to the greenhouse. I went outside and rototilled the garden spot for the tomatoes. We had sourdough bread and tuna sandwiches for lunch then went to the farmers market for plants. Bought two large pots of zinnias for \$6 and two 4 packs of tomatoes for \$1 each. We also found 2 six packs of marigolds for \$2 each. When we got home we weeded the rose garden where the plants will go then I planted our Dahlias from last year and watered them in. I deferred the other plantings until tomorrow. The grape vine killing project is doing well. There are dead vines in many places.

~

May 10, 2010 genealogy, gardening

Worked on gardening today. I planted the zinnias, Marigolds and tomatoes that we bought at the Farmers Market yesterday. I also sprayed for aphids on the roses then mixed up 4 gals of herbicide and went after grape vines once again in the back woods. I think one or two more tankfuls will achieve my goal of the triangle formed by the creek and the two paths. Disturbingly I had another tick crawling on me when I was sitting in the chair downstairs. I took a good scrubbing shower but that's not a guarantee. I heard from David today about genealogy research being done by a girl in WI tracing Chmielewski. Dinner was the other Tilapia from Saturday along with fresh zucchini, sweet potato and Skinny Minty ice cream for desert. We watched Dancing with the Stars after dinner while I looked at investments. The market went up 400 today and i made a few purchases this morning. I may sell the IGD in my IRA which is a CEF. I don't like CEF's although some of them are OK but I've never had any luck with them. I bought at 12.50 but it's down to 11.50. When it gets back to 13 I'm out of here and will get into an MLP possibly if not a beaten down preferred.

~

May 11, 2010 TAVS

Bought some misc stocks in my IRA. Got more PHR and also some ATLIF in my individual account. The IRA is almost fully invested. Left at quarter to 12 for Logans where I did some shopping for zinnias and peppers. Found both then went to a lunch meeting with the TAVS group. Very nice lunch. I had the veggie sandwich. Afterward I planted the small zinnias and the one big girl tomato. On the way home from Logans I stopped at Trader Joes for groceries and also did the Tuesday Krogers run. Dinner was TJ's pasta tortellini in marinara sauce. We watched American Idol tonight. It's the final four.

~

May 12, 2010 weeds

Earlier today I planted some of the peppers and tomatoes from Logans. Mixed up a batch of weed killer and went after the grape vines in the backyard. Dinner today was beanburger with onion and tomato on bread. We had some TJ's soycotash for the veggie. Watched the results of idol after dinner. Big mike got kicked off.

~

May 13, 2010 Prius oil

Bought an oil stock, WHX, for my IRA today. It fell 60 cents by closing time. I read about it online, it yields 12%. I'll monitor it for a while. Picked up 200 shares. Went outside and did a walk around looking at dead grape vines. It's too soon to continue spraying the grapes since I can't tell what's not been done without guessing. I can spray around the shed but didn't. Changed the Prius oil today. All went well. Broke a plastic push pin on the engine under cover. There is one large and 2 small pins. Bought a bag of each, 10 per bag from parts and clips . com in California. With Libbie in the car with her key I reset the oil change indicator on the dashboard. Printed a page from the Corolla manual about location of radiator hoses. I want to cut the hose to the radiator and insert a flushing port tee.

~

May 14, 2010 flush anitfreeze

I moved my car onto the pinestraw in front and rained the radiator. Next I cut the radiator hose and inserted a flush fitting. Hooked up the garden hose and reverse flushed the car then put new antifreeze into it mixed at 50%. All went well. For dinner we had Krogers corn with stuffed flounder. After dinner I continued to read my book, "The Ask" which I'm really enjoying.

~

May 15, 2010 Artsplosure

This morning I sprayed 4 more gals of herbicide on the triangle of grape vines finishing this area. Need to move over to the shed area next. After lunch Libbie and I went downtown to Artsplosure. We parked behind the school on Moore square and made the loop. I enjoyed the girls in their summer clothes. It was a 94 degree day. Next we went to the new NC Museum of Art. We were suitable wowed. The collection is outstanding. The Rodin's are spectacular. We got tossed out of the place at 5 when they closed. Too bad. For dinner we went to La Cocina and had a huge Margarita which made me totally drunk and woozy. Wow, what a drink.

~

May 16, 2010 nothing

Picked up a paper then walked around the yard looking at dead grape vines. Yes!!! I'm seeing a lot of kill on areas that were sprayed. In a month or so I'll go back to those areas for a maintenance touch-up of new sprouts or missed vines. I took the fish feeder timer apart to see why it stayed on one time. I have always wanted to replace the timing function with an AVR. This may be an opportunity. May have to use a relay since the timer runs on 9 volts and the AVR uses 5 volts. I wanted to use an existing board I have but it may be advantageous to design one from scratch since I may be able to use it for other things. Didn't do too much else today. I loaded up the legacy program with a Gedcom file derived from the Birthwrite program. all the links seem to be there but not the photos from the database. I liked Birthwrite since it produced web pages with photos and clickable links for the family. Libbie made her excellent pizza once again. Desert was the last of the Skinny Minty ice cream. I want to lose weight so won't get anymore. Libbie may complain about this but I want to get serious.

~

May 17, 2010 atmega

Looked at Virgin Mobile cards at BestBuy but didn't buy. They were \$99 which was fair. They were out of the Canon battery. Started looking at the Atmega for a fish feeder. The ATmega16 is not readily available in a 44 TQFP package anymore. I have to move to a 64 pin package which is too bad. It rained last night and a little more today which was good news. I may bite the bullet and buy a batch of 25 of the larger Atmega. I looked in my project box and I have 3 Atmega16's in 40 pin dips. I'll design a PCB to hold these for the fish feeder. It may be fun to put an RS485 on it for tying into a home network. Dinner tonight was tortellini which came from Trader Joes over the weekend. After dinner we watched all of dancing with the stars. It was quite good - lots of 10s. Football player chad has to go. He's not in the same league as the other contenders.

~

May 18, 2010 rain

It rained all day today. I went out to the grocery store later. Stayed inside working on the fish feeder replacement. Decided to use an existing Dip 40 pin Atmega 16 I have from EDTP that was the frame thrower project. Dinner was bean burger.

~

May 19, 2010 clearing

It rained last night and was cloudy most of today. I thought about doing more spraying but ended up inside working on the QFN footprint. Joe asked about his SS card so I initiated a huge cleanup in a search for the card. I threw away tons of old papers, some of which haven't been touched in over 10 years. Dinner was Moroccan chicken. We watched Idol's results show. I don't like Justin Bevier who was the musical host. The market was down 100 today but my portfolio was a lot worse. The overpriced preferreds are coming back down.

~

May 20, 2010 dump

I continued the cleanup today. first I printed a QFN footprint and then attempted to align a device with the printout under the microscope. All looks OK but I'm not sure about actually soldering one of these to a real copper PCB trace. I resumed the big cleanup today and sorted parts into bins and added more junk to the garbage can in the shop. The garage can and the shop can were full plus I had a huge stack of old textbooks to pitch out. I loaded the car with the cans and the trunk with the books and went to the dump. Had to wait almost an hour since there were so many people there. When I came home I filled the sprayer tank with 4 gals of herbicide and started spraying again. I encountered a baby fawn curled up in the brush pile on the septic field. I poked it with the sprayer nozzle and it walked away. I thought it was dead at first since it was motionless. The market was down a big number today - almost 400. This has been a 1,000 week drop. Dinner was bean burger with onion, tomato and baked beans. After dinner I had to return the library book I finished yesterday so I made a quick run at 8 PM to the drop box. We listened to Die Tot Stadt on WCPE Opera House tonight.

~

May 21, 2010 gardening

Today was gardening day. I first went to Bewt Buy and spent the \$99 on a spare battery for the Canon 7d. I then went in to the yard and planted squash, peppers and tomatoes in the planter boxes. My last outdoor move was to spray 4 gals of herbicide along the creek going up the east side of our property and on some of the dam for the retention pond. It's nice to see so many grape vines eliminated from the property but there are many, many more covering the woods. I worked on the PCB layout for the fish feeder after replicating the failure of the timer circuit. It will be sent out this weekend and hopefully delivered to the greenhouse because it's a signature required package. Dinner was bean burger with baked beans.

~

May 22, 2010 Joe and Christa

We left for the airport at 8:15 because Christa's 8:40 plane was going to be early at 8:23. I dropped Libbie at US Air and waited at the observation park until she called that Christa had her suitcase. I picked up some Bojangle biscuits for Libbie and I. Christa had already eaten in Charlotte. Joe arrived around noon. I picked up some deli turkey, cheese and tomatoes in Krogers as well as the first Vidalia I have seen in the grocery store this season. Dinner was ribs with Cabernet

Sauvignon and red beans and rice.

~

May 23, 2010 Wedding

Woke up at 7 to a thunder storm. The wedding is this afternoon, outdoors. I worked on readying the Q Flash and tripod. Everything has not been assembled before this. Libbie made sausage and eggs for breakfast. Very good. I got the flash working with the camera pretty reliably. I'll bring the old camera as a backup so I downloaded the old AVSA files from the Raleigh convention and will bring the older CF cards as backups as well.

The rain stopped in time for the wedding. It was very humid and I completely soaked my shirt while taking pictures. The camera seems to perform flawlessly. After the ceremony we went back to the house where I changed my shirt. We then went to the reception at Haywood Hall. It went very well. Emilie is an easy going girl, very pretty and very together. I took a lot of nice pictures. Afterward we came home tired where Libbie and I had a turkey and cheese sandwich with wheat bread and tomato. We retired early.

~

May 24, 2010 rain, leaving

Joe and Christa are leaving this afternoon. Joe is driving to Clinton, TN while Christa is flying to LA. We went to Smithfields for lunch where Lib and I had pork sandwiches and hush puppies while Joe and Christa had huge plates of bbq. After they left I hooked up electric fencing around the tomatoes in the growboxes which were eaten down and also around the roses, zinnias and daylilies which were also zapped. I was mad. Would love to shoot or poison the deer. Dinner tonight was turkey sandwich and then we watched Dancing with the Stars.

~

May 25, 2010 busy day

I sent the design file for Pisces, the fish feeder to AP circuits today after a good checkup at Dr Beavers. Paul Beaver is on vacation in Bryce Canyon so Dr Mulder, a retired UNC professor, was my dentist. Afterwards I went to Trader Joes and Krogers for groceries, mostly for tomorrows trip. I mowed the backyard until it started raining. I'm also working on downloading the camera cards for my trip and i also installed

Photoshop CS2 on the new laptop. Libbie made BLT's for us for lunch. Dinner was Trader Joe's Pasta. I spent the rest of the evening packing for the drive to Sarasota tomorrow.

~

May 26, 2010 drive

Left the house at 6:45. Traffic was light and the weather was nice.

It

was mostly clear skies except for a summer shower around Savannah.

I stopped

for a Sausage McMuffin in Florence and topped off the gas

tank at 2.45. The

Raceway had a jackhammer in the next stall making

pumping gas very unpleasant

but I was there for the price. The sausage

McMuffin was unique in that it had no egg like

an egg McMuffin,

just some sausage, cheese and the biscuit. It was on the \$1 menu which

is

why I ordered it. The next stop was St Mary GA where gas was

2.57. This is my

last fill up on the road and should take me all the

way to Sarasota. In St Mary

I went to the McDonalds next to the

gas station and got 2 hamburgers, a small

fries and a medium coke.

I stayed on 95 to I-4 which was excellent. traffic was

light with no

issues. Orlando was great although it was 3:30 when I went through there.

I stopped in Downtown Disney to take a walk, do a dump in the

very nice

clean disney restrooms and buy a bottle of water which was

2.50. The lake breeze

was wonderful, the air temp was 91 according

to my car thermometer. The condo

looked great. Somebody added silk

wildflowers to the desk and dining room table.

They look nice. The

refrigerator has a rust stain running down the front. I

stopped

in the grill room for pub night but there were no tables at 7. I went

to

Best Buy instead and bought a Virgin Mobile broadband card for

\$107 including

tax. It took another \$20 to activate it for 350 megabytes.
It seems to work good
enough for access for eMail and web stuff.
I exchanged a series of eMails with
Libbie. On the way home from
Best Buy I stopped in Publix and got pineapple,
milk and Bourbon
chicken and a cherry coffee cake which I ate after the Bourbon
chicken.
The chicken was very good and spicy. I had regurgitation of the
chicken
during the night. Perhaps should not have eaten so much food.

~

May 27, 2010 Selby

I went to Selby this morning and enjoyed the gardens. Next trip was to
Ringling
to get pricing info and hours. I was happy with the pictures
from Selby. The new
camera really performs well. Focus is quick,
exposure is right on and the camera
is fast. I stopped at the clubhouse
at 7 and ordered a rack of ribs to go. They
were good but not
as good as Libbies. For desert I had Roadrunner frozen yogurt.
I
worked on Pisces today. It was delivered to the greenhouse, Nancy signed
for
it. The software was not working. The timer code was screwed
up, the wrong
interrupt was being called causing the program to reset
to the beginning in the
simulator. I got the interrupts and the
registers straightened out and set the
timer to 20 MS using the simulator.
I'll check it one the scope at home with the
real hardware.

~

May 28, 2010 Ringling

Went over to Ringling at 10:30. They gave me the senior price even though
senior

starts at age 65. The Senior rate is \$20 whereas regular admission is \$25. I first went to Caas D'Azan which had a wedding going on the back patio overlooking Sarasota Bay. The house is opulent but not on the same order as Hearst Castle or the Biltmore. The surprise was the Tibbal learning center which was thousands of miniature people made in Tibbals workshop over 50 years. He had trains, circus wagons, lots of tents and big tops. Wow. I then toured the Rose

garden and some of the other landscaping which was lush. I did a walk through of the Art Museum including the Circus photographs of somebody at the turn of last century. Dinner tonight was leftover ribs from last night. Talked to Libbie tonight on my Pay Per View phone. She worked late at the greenhouse today so she can take tomorrow morning off and get a massage. Tonight I had the leftover ribs with the veggies and bake potato. I went to Publix and picked up some Sour Cream for my potato and I also got some chips which I shouldn't have. I watched Beau Pere which I brought with me. The title must refer to a Stepfather. The premise is a man is left with the 14 year old daughter of his girlfriend after the girlfriend dies in a car wreck. A love relationship ensues making this a remake of Lolita.

~

May 29, 2010 Lighting

I slept well last night. There was some thunder and lightning during the night but I fell back asleep. Woke at 6:30 and watched the morning shows while I worked on pictures on my computer. I will need to get to the AVSA pics next. I'm

thinking of driving back tomorrow since
I have more to do at home than here.
Took the light apart in the
bathroom which I have never liked. I may go to Lowes
to get a replacement.
I want a stainless "4 banger" like the "3 banger"
we have
in the master bath.

Bought the 4 baner light
at Lowes. It went in relatively easy. Finished the job
except for
painting. I'll bring rollers and spackle when I come in July.

~

May 30, 2010 no drumming

After breakfast I went to get the newspaper. Read the paper then got on
the
bicycle and did a short ride through Soneybrook estates looking
for "ForSale"
signs. Came back and went online searching real
estate. Took a short nap before
heading out to the drum circle.
Couldn't get into the parking lot in 2 attempts
so I went to Turtle
Beach and walked from the beach to Island Reef and then back
onto
Midnight Pass Rd to walk back to the Turtle Beach parking lot. Left the
key
and went to Paneras and had a veggie sandwich and French Onion
soup. Returned
after sunset and the lot entrance was blocked by
Sarasota sheriff cars. They
weren't letting any cars in after dark.
Saw a few nice bikinis walking along
Midnight Pass around Siesta beach.
When I got back to Stoneybrook I checked
eMail and found that
Libbie had fallen yesterday in the greenhouse and was home
injured.
I called right away to check on her condition. She was bruised but
OK.
Did some work on the 485 network before going to bed.

~

May 31, 2010 Memorial Day

Went online to read the rest of the 27 dresses movie outcome. I watched the movie yesterday until the file wouldn't red anymore so I didn't know how it ended. will have to download it when I get home and watch the ending. Took a ride in the other direction of the Legacy trail, towards Clark road from the Sarasota Parkway. Went to the end and photographed the end of trail sign. Went to Walmart and picked up a square bike seat that claims to have no pressure points. Mounted this seat and tried a 4 mile bike road around the outside of Stoneybrook, past the wetlands and down mcIntosh into the back entrance. I'm not sure if the seat helped since my butt was still sore but I'm going to give it another try. The bike is performing well but doesn't roll easily. This may be due to the wide tires and cheap bearings. I took a ride down to Venice and had a big mac and fries for dinner/lunch at 4 PM. I then went to Walmart again and picked up a watermelon. the melon was from Mississippi!! I really wanted a Florida melon. Tried surfing around on TV looking for something to watch then went to bed bored. I'll probably go home Wednesday.

~

June 01, 2010 Cleanup

The Scoobie is charged and ready to go. I'll set it up in the kitchen this morning before going out. I'll let the noise run while I'm out and about. Took a long bike ride to Dona Bay and back.

Scoobie did good on the floors but didn't vacuum up the water. The floor looks clean. Recharged and did it again in the bathroom. This time it seems to

have vacuumed up the water. Cleaned up the rest of the place including laundry. I had Chile Rejeno for dinner with a side of orange slices for desert. Yummy. In the afternoon I went around looking for a hat. Found a nice straw hat in Davidsons on siesta Key.

~

June 02, 2010 drive home

Got up at 4 and was on the road by 4:45. I had clear sailing all the way except for thundershowers beginning in Florence. I stopped at McDonalds for a sausage McMuffin in Ormond Beach and then for a second in Kingsland, GA. I also filled up at 2.59. Next was 2 hamburgers, small fries and medium drink in Florence followed by a fillup at 2.39. It started pouring so bad I couldn't see the lanes on I-95. I was soon out of it but then it started again and continued on and off all the way home. Arrived home at 3:43 in light rain but dark and thundery skies. I planned to do lots of stuff at home but once I stopped traveling I just collapsed. Dinner was BLT and Southwest Fiesta Grillin Beans.

~

June 03, 2010 Home

This is my first day back. I installed all the components on the Fish Feeder board which came in while I was away. Went up in the back and examined a large Beech tree that came down blocking access to the dam and the Seagrove development. I need to clean it up before we can use the path again. A note came from Ken Barbi mentioning that I had promised 2 articles for the MAAVS Memo. I got busy and wrote both of them in the evening but did not submit them. Dinner was a bean burger on Vidalia with cherries for desert. We later had a bowl of skinny Minty ice cream. I listed to a Menotti opera, The Medium while writing 2 articles for the MAAVS Memo. Lib did not like it as predicted but I gave it a chance and ended up enjoying it.

~

June 04, 2010 First Friday

This morning I finished the Memo article and touched up 4 photos to go with the Convention article for the MAAVS Memo and sent them to Ken for publication. I earlier finished up a short blurb about the MAAVS website and sent it to Ken also. I wrote both articles last night during

the opera on WCPE but revised them this morning. I did not want to do anything else until this was done and it is!!! The article references the MAAVS website which needs to be updated before publication this weekend. At noon I went outside and sprayed 4 more gallons of Roundup as a touchup on my previous job. Lib came up the hill when I was about out and piddling the remaining around the edges of the septic field. After a watermelon lunch I went to work on the Pisces Fish Feeder controller. I wired up a cable for control and then built a second cable for my power supply. I found the regulator was installed backwards by me. Reversed it and now I have good 5 volt power from an 8 volt source. I made reservations at Caffe Luna for this evening since it's First Friday.

I checked today to see if my State tax refund has been issued. The State website says that it has.

We left at 6:15

for downtown Raleigh and parked in the Moore Square parking lot at the bus transfer station. We first went to the bank where Nicole had a contemporary show and reception. Our next stop was Artspace where there was a 70th birthday party going on for Judy Crane. We had wine there as well as at Nicoles bank show. On the way out we listened to a young band playing mostly Beatle music and other 60s music. At Caffe Luna I had the chefs special which was scallops, shrimp and other seafood cooked into a slice of bread with a filet of Mahi Mahi. It was very good. I had a glass of Rodney strong Merlot with the meal. We went and listened to more Beatles music until Libbie got dizzy and had to leave.

~

June 05, 2010 Farmers Market

Saturday Morning

Worked on a cable for the Pisces controller. Hooked it up to the Fish feeder and it works as expected. I'm happy!!! Next step is to package this thing up, my least favorite job. At noon Libbie came home. We had lunch on the back porch - I had watermelon then we went to the Farmers Market for Fresh peaches, blueberries, corn, zucchini and a trailing gardenia. Stopped at BJ's on the way home and got ribs and milk. Couldn't make the turn back onto Lake Pine at Wendy's because they closed the intersection for paving. We went home via Laura Duncan. We encountered the same situation last night after First Friday. Dinner was ribs, Shiraz and peach pie!!!! We had the corn with the ribs - it was the best of the season.

~

June 06, 2010 Fish Feeder is now AVR based

No newspaper this morning. Too much to do. We had blueberry pancakes for breakfast then I packaged and installed the fish feeder. We have it set for 6 seconds which Libbie says is an ample amount of food. This is great, the fish feeder was my priority. I put out the MAAVS Memo today and had to update the MAAVS website to include the Raleigh convention. I also worked on clearing the fallen Beech tree in the back by the pond and bird house. It was pretty hot but satisfying work. About another day or two of chain saw work and I'll have a path cleared. I want to be able to take my sprayer to the dam and clear some more of a path with the roundup but the path is blocked. I took my camera to the back and took more pictures in Seagrove Farms. Quite a few more homes are sold. It's very surprising.

~

June 07, 2010 tree

Went out and worked pretty hard on the fallen tree. I cleared it all and even picked up some of the branches from other trees. Made a large pile next to the fence along the dam. The weather is cool and humidity is low. For dinner we had ribs with sweet potato and cor, all of it leftovers. We walked into Seagrove Farms on the newly opened path after dinner. It's satisfying to see how far the clearing I have done in the woods has come.

~

June 08, 2010 Fayetteville

Assembled the second Pisces card this morning then went to Krogers to get gas at 2.56 per gal. Went to the greenhouse at 10:45 where I picked up Libbie and JoAnne Hoover for the drive to Fayetteville. Sheilas home is lovely. I loved the garden and pond that Fred put in, complete with Waterfalls. Absolutely lovely! She had a nice lunch buffet setup with salads and chopped barbecue. We left there around 2 and I drove everyone to the greenhouse to get their cars, including Libbie. At home the mail contained my Wiznet IP to 485 bridge module as well as our State refund check of almost \$600. I filed the taxes April 4 and this is June 8. I also went out and got a minimal amount of groceries since today is Tuesday. We forgot to get the garbage to the street this morning. Dinner tonight was BLT with Southern Pit BBQ baked beans.

~

June 09, 2010 Libbie trip

Took Libbie to the airport leaving at 8 am. Traffic was surprisingly light the back way through the Cary Pkwy. On the way back I stopped in Brueggers and picked up a bagel with cream cheese. Spent the rest of the day reading about sockets and 485 to IP Wiznet hardware. Dinner tonight was the Broccoli salad which I made this afternoon.

~

June 10, 2010 socket programming

I installed Xampp on my computer and tried a php socket server but it didn't work too well. Jennifer called that she smelled propane. I went over and found a small leak around the valve on tank 3. Fixed it then weeded the landscape plants and spread Jennifers bark around. The plants seem to be thriving nicely. Dinner was a fish Lean Cuisisne.

~

June 11, 2010 fascia

The art book came today. I want to experiment with making colors with oil paints, something I've been having trouble doing. Went to Lowes and bought the materials for the back porch soffit and fascias. Took down the old rotted wood and painted the new wood before installing it. For some reason Lib called twice today from RI. Dinner was Broccoli salad. I downloaded Its Complicated with Alex Baldwin and Mery Streep and watched half of it. It's funny but a long movie.

~

June 12, 2010 outdoors

I spent a lot of time messing with Uniserver and blog software today. Went outside and mowed the entire back lawn. Did a greenhouse trip and found the generator battery dead. Put water in it and will try tomorrow. The thermostats were set to 70 which means they ran all night long. Set them back to 90, hopefully the fans will turn off tonight. Set up the second ladder as well as a step ladder and took down some more fascia board. The 2x8 underneath looks OK except it's a little weather worn. Dinner was bean burger with Vidalia and ice cream. No more ice cream!!!! It's fattening as hell. Now I need to mow the front

lawn and also, since it's the weekend, take some roundup up onto the dam.

~

June 13, 2010 weedkiller

Read the paper this morning then went out to work on the fascia boards. Took some more down before taking a break to spray the dam. Since it's

Sunday morning I thought it would be good to spray the dam when nobody's around. Only mixed up 2 gals but it went a long ways. Dinner was a bean burger with Vidallia.

~

June 14, 2010 soffitt

Watched a creepy movie that I liked, The Quiet One. Cut the soffitt into an 8 foot long piece after looking at my options at both Home Depot and Lowes. I'll end up buying 12 foot lengths and cutting them into 8 foot pieces. We'll see how this works with the first one. Went over to the greenhouse at 7 with Libbie's car to charge it up. I also ran the greenhouse generator. It was dead 2 days ago so I put water in the battery and now all is well. There was an accident in front of the golf course so I came home via Kildair to Penny Rd. Drove over to Kroger for ice cream that I said wasn't get anymore but I have no will power. They were setting up the lights on Old Raleigh Rd for paving again when I returned from the greenhouse.

~

June 15, 2010 Southwest

Put up one panel of the hardiboard soffitt and also took some more of the old stuff down. Picked up Libbie at 3:10, her plane was on time. I then hooked up the trailer and we went over to the greenhouse to get the ladder. Found out that Jennifer's Stuart finally got a job. He starts a week from Monday. Even though I had fresh pasta from Trader Joes today we went out to La Cosina for Margaritas and a Quesadilla, our favorite.

~

June 16, 2010 soffitt

After breakfast I hooked up the trailer with the ladder on it and went to Lowes to get 4 more 12 foot pieces of soffitt. I painted them on the side of the house before it rained then took down more of the old wood. When Libbie came home we were going to go to take a walk but it started raining. Went over to Litmus to get my sculpture instead then we stopped at the Farmers Market for fruit and veggies. I like the cute Farmers Daughters over there in tight tee shirts and short shorts.

Dinner was corn on the cob and bean burger with vidalia. Desert was canteloupe. Yum.

~

June 17, 2010 soffit

The first attempt at installing a 12 foot soffit was a failure. Five feet of it snapped off on the ladder trying to put it on the two brackets I fabricated. The next 2 were 8 foot sections which were much more manageable. I had to trim the boxwood and the myrtle on the corner before going further. Finished removing the fascia before I got tired for the day. I now need two more soffit pieces. We went to the Credit Union and signed our new loan agreement. The old one ran out after 10 years. This one is good for 20 years.

~

June 18, 2010 soffits, Carrier AC

I took down the rest of the old soffit over the back porch then went to Lowes with the trailer and picked up 2 more pieces of the stuff. Painted it all then got cleaned up, ending my day. Tom Herner came over to recharge the AC. It didn't need any freon. The problem was a blown fuse on the downstairs compressor. I felt dumb since I could have fixed this a year ago myself. Dinner was eggplant parmesan.

~

June 19, 2010 soffits

I finished putting up the soffits today over the back porch. They came out pretty good. In the PM Libbie and I went over to BB and trimmed the holly bushes and chain sawed some tree branches overhanging the grass. When I came home hot and sweaty I mixed the last of the Orthene

and sprayed Japanese beetles on the Hibiscus and roses until the 1/2 gal of mix ran out. I got cleaned up then Libbie and I did a Trader Joes' trip to pick up wine and nuts. Libbie made a banana zucchini bread from the AV cookbook. Dinner was eggplant parmesan, shiraz and banana zucchini bread by Kathy Lahti.

~

June 20, 2010 last RLT today

I got up early this morning and went to get a paper at 6:24. Libbie made peach pancakes with the leftover peaches then I had a slice of zucchini bread for desert. It was warm out but I got 24 feet of fascia boards installed. I realized that I don't have enough 6 inch wide fascia boards so I went to Lowes after RLT to get another piece. Put it in the Corolla hanging out the back.

The Light on the Piazza was another fine RLT production. I was surprised to find it was a musical. I wasn't expecting this. It was very enjoyable. Beforehand we walked around the Raleigh rose Garden admiring roses at their peak before summer takes it's toll. I took a few pictures. At home Libbie made her yummy pizza for dinner. In the evening Joe called for Fathers Day. He and Christa were at Cory's house since it's his first Father's Day. We talked about coming to California to help with house remodeling. There is an opera at the end of July in Santa Fe that we can get tickets to, Tales of Hoffman with Kate Lindsey who did the Met HD performance. Dinner was Libbie's nice pizza. She had a frozen one she was able to whip out since this afternoon we weren't home.

~

June 21, 2010 soffits

I did some trip planning today. Started out by buying Opera tickets for Santa Fe. Next step was to look at possible venues in the surrounding states. I want to visit either Bryce or Zion. Finished up the soffits today. Now I have to sand and caulk. Dinner was pasta with some of the broccoli salad I made this afternoon.

~

June 22, 2010 trip planning

More trip planning. Bought a plane ticket for Libbie to fly to Santa Fe.

Then over the course of the afternoon I booked hotel rooms in Santa Fe, Kayenta, and Bryce Canyon. I'm also looking at where to stay in Death Valley. We will end up in Huntington Beach on July 26. Joe offered a one week Hertz coupon. I could fly plus add 400 for another week making the total cost \$800 plus Joe's coupon. Compare that to the cost of driving cross country. Some more work to do! I fixed up one corner of the soffit and caulked it then started sanding and scraping the old caulk. I have half of it done. I may paint some of the soffit this week or at least power wash the back for painting prep. Today I also hooked up the hoses and timer for the grow boxes. This is in anticipation of our Vancouver trip next week.
Dinner was BLT with Fiesta
Grillin beans.

~

June 23, 2010 eating

Good tips on GMA this morning. Eat real food, only what your body needs and eat mostly plants. Walking is a great easy exercise.]
We went
to the Farmers market and got corn and watermelon and peaches and eggplant. We had the corn with bean burgers for dinner. Didn't do too much else today except for a walk. I was tired when I came back from the lake.

~

June 24, 2010 hot

It's supposed to be hot today, pretty near 100. The temp went to 101. I got burned out doing some caulking and weeding of the tomatoes. came in and spent the rest of the day indoors. Dinner was corn and bean burger. Yummy.

~

June 25, 2010 Trip

I planned my going West drive this morning. It's ending up to be a museum tour starting with Cheekwood and Chilhuly in Nashville, Brooks in Memphis, Beale St Sat night, the Cowboy Museum in Oklahoma City and ending with a Turner to Cezanne exhibit in Albuquerque. I'm looking forward to this trip. Went outside and weeded the flower garden, watered the tomatoes and scraped and caulked the soffit and fascia boards.

The back is now complete except for paint. I was too lazy to paint today. Watched an exile on Main St film by the Rolling stones. It was quite good about the recording of the Exile on main St album in 1972. Dinner was eggplant parmesan with Shiraz wine from Rex Goliath winery in Woodbridge, CA. I picked this stuff up in Kroger because I didn't feel like going to Trader Joes.

~

June 26, 2010 yard work

Did yard work this morning blowing off the driveway, picking up sticks in the driveway and putting away the nail gun and compressor. When Libbie came home I was servicing the pressure washer. I put fresh gas into it, pumped up the tires and started it up. She took the wand and cleaned the front porch, the stairs and the sidewalk. I can't believe how good it all looks. Heard from Kathy Lahti. She wanted the convention reports so I spent an hour collating everything into a large document and sent the link to Kathy and Ron Davidson. We went to Trader Joes and the new Ace Hardware on Kildaire Farm Rd. Ace was very nice. I bought a metal garbage can and read the labels for the bug sprays. Can't find Orthene anymore but I found the ingredient online. It is Acephate. Dinner was leftover Eggplant Parmesan with Trader Joe's Shiraz. Earlier today I did more trip planning and booked some choice hotel rooms in Nashville, OK City and Amarillo. Choice has a deal where two hotels will earn a \$50 Chili's gift card.

~

July 02, 2010 Van Dusen

This morning we did our usual McDonalds breakfast. It's a sunny warmer day. We came back to the hotel, met Jacquie walking with her husband and invited them to join us at VanDusen botanical gardens. We got the senior rate which was 7.25 each. It was a sunny day in the garden. We enjoyed the many, many flowers on a walk around the garden. At one point we took a walk into a fern glade under tall trees which was wonderful. I hope our garden turns out like this someday. We came back to the hotel for Vladimir's talk but had time for a nice lunch sandwich

at Tim Hortons. Before Tim Hortons we went to the Bank of Montreal to exchange money and found out they charge 2.50 fee for exchanges. Tim Horton said they accept US dollars so it wasn't worth it. Vladimirs talk was a little hard to understand but his slides were excellent. I enjoyed the stark contrast of his before and after violet pictures, before and after the Soviet Union went to an

open society. Next up was Dr John Clark from the Univ of Alabama. He had a detailed and technical talk of his trip to Cuba collecting Gesneriads and what he found and how they all relate to previous Hans Wehler findings via DNA typing. It was a fascinating lecture. For the evening we went to Steveston Village for a nice dinner on the waterfront then had some fish and chips at a takeout down the wharf followed by Gelato which was \$9 for 2 cones. I have developed a love for Gelato. When we got back to the hotel the dinner was over and awards were present on the winning Gesneriads. We spent some time wandering around and photographing the winning plants before going back up to our room and falling asleep. We enjoyed watching the nighttime trains going and coming to Vancouver. We took some pictures and also timed their arrival and departures. One train came about every 7 minutes.

~

July 03, 2010 cruise

We went to Stanley Park today. Walked and drove the park a little before having lunch at the Teahouse which was lovely. I had Fish and Chips, Libbie had a crab eggs Benedict. I had a Stanley amber beer with my meal. We then went to the Rose garden and were amazed at the flower beds. A girl was getting married in the park via a horse drawn carriage. Slowly made our way back to Richmond since we had to leave early

for the harbor cruise. We sat with Vladimir and a Canadian lady. The food was good and the scenery was great. What a way to see Vancouver, the Gesneriad dinner cruise. We got back to pack for our early morning takeoff home.

~

July 04, 2010 travel home

Woke at 6 AM with the alarm set at 6:05. Picked up the preprinted checkout under the door of our room and loaded up the rental car with our suitcases. We got going nicely but the GPS was not sure of where we were yet but I used the instructions it generated which were available in a list until it found our way. This was weird, I guess the Hertz GPS is not as good as my Magellan even though Magellan comes up on the screen indicating they are the manufacturer. Traffic was very light this early leaving Richmond. The tunnel had 2 lanes in and 2 lanes outbound. We got to the border and there was only one other car in front of us. We allowed 45 minutes but it took less than 5. There were no questions about plants or food or weapons. We had some Gesneriad giveaways in our carry on bags that we picked up at the convention. Once in the US we stopped at the first McDonalds for breakfast. I was carrying \$20 in Canadian money which McDonalds accepted as \$19 USD as payment for our breakfast. I had pancakes, Libbie had the usual egg and sausage biscuit. Fifty or so miles later we stopped again for more coffee and picked up a couple of cinnamon buns at McDonalds for \$6.48.

Humorously, I asked for a Danish. The girl asked, "what's that?" Once in Seattle we were about an hour ahead of schedule so we stopped at Seattle Center, the park with the Space Needle. We walked all around it and did some pictures, then used the restrooms inside the visitors gift shop at the base of the needle. Luckily we found free street parking one block away. Next stop we drove by Pikes Place Market along the waterfront. It seems like all was just getting underway - the streets were empty and a lot of shops closed. It was all for the Fourth of July.

We got gas 12 miles from the airport and found our way into the parking garage without incident for the car return. Unfortunately, American Airlines was a long ways down from the return counter and the terminal was very crowded. We tried outside but the sidewalks and roads were just as clogged with people. Next challenge was the security lines which were very long, but it is the busiest travel day of the week so it was to be expected. Got to our gate, A9 in plenty of time for our 12:15 flight. The flight however was

about 15 minutes late taking off. We changed planes in Dallas. We only had less than 30 minutes and unfortunately we were dropped at gate C32 and our flight to Raleigh was in A14. Took the SkyLink to the next terminal, visited the bathroom, bought crackers and trail mix in one of the gift shops and boarded without any waiting. Our seats in row 8 were given to a fat guy who needed 2 seats putting us at the bulkhead. I was very happy with the ability to stretch out. Excellent seat. We arrived in Raleigh about 15 minutes late. The parking lot shuttle was right outside baggage claim taking us to our car. The bill for 7 full days was \$28, a nice deal. Home arrival was midnight. What a surprise, the Ben Meadow order from 3 days ago was on our doorstep.

~

July 05, 2010 Back home

I got up at 7 and after a shower took off for Krogers where I picked up milk and OJ after our trip last week. Juggled some funds and paid the Visa bill which was over 2400 dollars. I spent a lot of the day organizing receipts, sorting pictures and unpacking everything. Libbie and I took a walk up into Seagroves to see if there was anything new in construction. A few more spec houses started and the large mountain has been leveled to give a few more basement lots. After a dinner of TJ's cannelloni we looked at some of the pictures. I sent some Bill Price baby pictures to Anne.

~

July 06, 2010 groceries

It's getting hard to adjust to Eastern Time. Did the groceries but Libbie wanted the wash bottles at the greenhouse so I complied and also looked at the water leak. Went to Trader Joe's down Route 1 from the greenhouse and did the route backwards from normal. Dinner was Trader Joe's pasta. I installed the genealogy program and did quite a bit of data entry. The import from the other program didn't work so I'm manually entering it all.

~

July 07, 2010 pictures

Went to the greenhouse to dig out the broken pipe then picked up wet/dry glue in Ace. Fixed it but it requires 2 hours to dry before pressure testing it. Sorted pics on my computer from the trip and posted some

Whistler pics. Sold the IGD which I bought a few months ago. It's a CEF which are all losers. I'll never buy another CEF again, I have only gotten burned by them for hundreds of dollars. Market is up 300 today for no reason. Dinner was Trader Joe Chicken Chow Mein. Very good.

~

July 08, 2010 cases

Received the quote for the cases today. Roughly \$200 to cut holes in 10 cases. I looked up the case number and ordered 10 of them from Merlin Electronics. I went over there on Maynard in Cary and got the nickel tour. Lots of impressive equipment. Market continues to do good. IRA is at a new high of 346. Used the money from the IGD sale yesterday to pick up 100 shares for TCF, a finance company paying 9.7%. My percent allocation of this was under 4% so I had room to add to my position. I have none of this stuff in my individual port although I should because of the divvy. Maybe I will re-evaluate the portfolio. It rained this evening, whoo hoo!!! Dinner was Chile Releno frozen from Trader Joes.

~

July 09, 2010 case

This morning I built a mechanical prototype of Kahlo and brought it over to Allen at Touchstone3D. When I came back I looked into negative DC-DC converters some more. The module I had been using was a surplus item that is no longer available. I found a Microchip part, the TC1121 that looks like it will work and doesn't involve using inductors. The part is \$1.05 in quantity 25. Lib and I went to the Farmers Market and got corn, eggplant and a watermelon. Some cute Farmers daughters were selling the corn. Dinner was eggplant parmesan with corn and Shiraz. Yum.

~

July 10, 2010 garden

Libbie helped me in the flower garden today. I used the string trimmer on the japanese irises, cut the rose bushes down and weeded everything. I also tied the peppers and tomatoes with string. Later in the PM we went to BJ's to get ribs but I forgot my coupon. I also went into Kohls next door and picked up 2 tee shirts for 6.50 each. I didn't want to pat \$10 in BJ's. I also wanted Cascade soap powder but the stuff

they had was the wrong color and appeared to be scented. Dinner was corn on the cob, ribs and Shiraz.

~

July 11, 2010 quiet day

Went out early for a paper. Wanted to spend the day on AVSA pics but instead worked a little outside then took a walk. Lots of poolside bikinis today. Dinner was Libbie's super pizza.

~

July 12, 2010 quiet

It was a bug day. Spent time online looking at options in Memphis and Nashville. Got the info about the Benziger condo then swapped some of my hotels around. Freebie in OK city from Radisson rewards. Canceled Santa Fe Hampton. Dinner was eggplant.

~

July 13, 2010 pics

Spent the whole day working on AVSA pics and researching interesting places on my cross country drive. Uploaded all my completed pics and request design photos from Marjorie. Dinner was eggplant and leftover ribs.

~

July 14, 2010 pics

Marjorie sent her design photos overnight. I incorporated them into the AVSA library pics and things look well. Still do not have the display table photos. The plastic boxes came this afternoon. Libbie and I took them to Cary for cutting and got a nickel tour of the facility. The replacement motherboard also came. Thank goodness it fixed the problem, however the LAN wire is bad. I temporarily put a wireless adapter into the USB. Will replace the wire at another time. Dinner was pasta.

~

July 15, 2010 packing

Rotated the tires this morning then went to the CU to get money, \$500.
Did a lot of packing and also worked on the AVSA pictures getting them
pretty close to completion. Dinner tonight was scallops with mushrooms
and rice. Trader Joes meal but very nice. Last dinner at home tonight
for a few weeks.

~

July 16, 2010 drive to Nashville

Got off a little later than planned but still OK. Left at 7:40. Uneventful
journey. It was a little slow going by the big rock slide at the
NC-TN border but kept moving along. Stopped in Knoxville for gas and
got my watermelon out of the cooler for lunch. Hit a little rain in
downtown Nashville, traffic was a little slow but moving through the
twists and turns. Arrived at Dickson at 3:30. Checked into the Comfort
Inn, cleaned up a little, changed my shirt and was off to Cheekwood.
The quality of the gardens blew me away. There was so much more Chilhuly
glass than I expected. It was everywhere. The sky was lightly
raining and there was thunder and lightning in the distance but nothing
serious. I got a little wet, the breeze actually felt good since I
was soaked. Came back at 7:30 and went up the street a mile from the
hotel and had Barts BBQ. A plate of pulled pork with sides of BBQ beans
and potato salad. They served the corn bread in a weird cornbread
flat pancake like form. Libbie's is so much better.

~

July 17, 2010 drive to Memphis

Since I was only 172 miles from Memphis, the drive was very easy. I-40
was lighter than yesterday but very patrolled. I got to the Dixon Gallery
at 10:30. Admission is free from 10 to 12 on Saturdays and this
was Saturday. Had to use the bathroom in the art gallery before I started.
The gardens were nice with a lot of art sprinkled throughout. The
gardens were not as nice as Cheekwood. The museum was outstanding.
Could not take pictures of the collection but it was fantastic. I saw
some Renoirs that I have never seen. They also had a lot of the European
impressionists. This is their stated mission. I really enjoyed
the special show, the paintings of Helen M Turner, an American impressionist
who lived from 1858 - 1958. Her work is lovely, impressionistic
paintings of flowers and woman in the garden. Next stop was the Hampton
on Beale. I had to wait an hour for my room so I walked around
Beale St. Enjoyed the music and picked out a spot I'll return to.

Got

checked into my room in the early afternoon then went to Beale St. Bought a Big Ass Blue Moon for \$4 and listened to a large black woman wail away with her blues band from LA. She was quite good and entertaining. Had some pizza next to the hotel, changed my shirt then went back down to Beale at night. They were checking ID before you got onto the street. They wouldn't let a very pretty girl with black lace top onto the street without a photo id. I enjoyed several blues bands in various street venues before hanging it up at midnight. I dragged myself to the room and dropped right off to sleep.

~

July 18, 2010 ok city

I had a peaceful drive to OKC through the Ozarks. There was a bit of traffic but I enjoyed the scenery and the clouds. Got to the hotel in late afternoon, the Country Suites. Don't like the place. If it wasn't free I would not choose to stay there. No smoke detector, generally shabby appearance. I'm missing a lamp by the sofa. Cleaning is not great. Free internet and free breakfast in a free room however make it a keeper but just barely. Visited the Charcoal Oven down the street where I had a very tasty hamburger and curly q dinner. \$8 for all including drink. Stopped into Borders next to the hotel and bought a Western Art magazine. Went to the Cowboy museum and browsed the free areas. They were going to close in less than an hour but I saw the preview movie and the large sculptures including their icon, the end of the trail.

Went downtown looking for the arts museum and ended up at the OKC Memorial. This was a very peaceful reflecting memorial for the Murrah federal building bombing. Looked up some of the gift shop art books from the cowboy museum on Amazon. I may be ordering when I get back.

~

July 19, 2010 Amarillo

Didn't care for the breakfast at Country Inn. I had some self made waffle and a bagel. Glad to leave there. Went over to the Western Museum around 9:30 and waited for them to open at 10. There were quite a few people waiting as well. The Art was lovely, photography was not allowed. The Prx de West had some outstanding pieces. I fell in love with a piece called "reflection" or something like that. I wanted desperately to photograph it but instead I made notes. I want to recreate this pose I loved it so much. Left there and headed West to

Amarillo. It was an easy drive but the road outside OKC was rough. They seem to be replacing it since quite a bit of it was single lane. I saw some huge windmills and a tilted tower in Groom, TX. Also notable was the vast plain of nothingness. I did enjoy the scenery. Stopped for gas which was outside Amarillo next to a Texas Info Center. The two ladies at the desk knew about Biti Pies and gave me a map and even told me today was Monday, Lemon Pie day, I found Biti, a tiny little shack but with a pretty girl running the counter and drive up. I ended up buying 5 Biti's. One for tonight and 4 to share with Libbie when I see her tomorrow. I'll have to put Ice in the ice chest to keep the pies. After finding the Comfort Inn, which was very very nice, I set out for the Cadillac Ranch. Enjoyed the field of Cadillacs, I even painted one with Bluebird in red. Took some photos then looked for Mooses BBQ on Rt 66. Mooses is gone so I went to Wendy's and had a very nice Baja salad. Excellent. I wonder what the calorie count is? This is a wonderful Comfort Inn, it seems to be brand new since it's on the edge of town.

~

July 20, 2010 going to ABQ

I really like the Amarillo Comfort Inn. I had a nice breakfast of eggs and sausage from the buffet then took some pics outside of rusted antique cars and pickup trucks. Headed West on 40 and noted that there were a lot of people around the Cadillac ranch cars. The cows also moved forward to around the people and the cars. The trip across the Texas plains was fascinating. The landscape changes so fast. When I crossed into NM it really changed a lot into hilly desert country. I bought gas just outside Albuquerque at 2.79. I called Libbie around noon. She was just getting to the airport and I was just arriving in ALBQ. I went to the Art Museum and hung around for a few hours. The special exhibit of Turner to Cezanne was nice but the museum itself was not that great. I still had more time and talked to Libbie while she changed planes in Dallas. I decided and she thought it was a good idea to visit the Nuclear museum. Wow, what a trip. This place is devoted to nuclear bombs all labeled with megatonnage and delivery system. Out back there were minuteman missiles and a B52 nuclear bomber. When I was done I walked around Old Town then made my way the back way to the airport across the campus. What a bleak and dismal place ALBQ is. At the airport I parked in an aircraft observation area and watched planes landing and taking off. I even saw Libbie's 6:40 American Airline plane land at 6:43. Not bad. I waited till she called then went to the luggage area and picked her up. We went to Old Town and had a nice dinner with a Margarita on the porch of La Hacienda. We drove in the dark up I-25 to Santa Fe and found Romero St but had a little difficulty finding the Benziger condo in the dark. We had the wrong address

but eventually found our way and unloaded the car and went to sleep.

~

July 21, 2010 santa fe

Woke at 7 this morning. I made one of the hotel prepackaged coffees in Mary and Johns 4 cup Mr Coffee. This worked OK. Next we drove to the Plaza to get our bearings. We paid for one hour of parking and had breakfast at the Plaza Restaurant. I had the French Toast which was

excellent. The breakfast bill was \$25, a little pricey. When we got back to the condo we decided to walk to the galleries. I looked up the Nedra Mateuci galleries that Jim had recommended and marked it on John's yahoo map. We were slightly confused at first since some of the streets weren't there and others were not marked correctly but after a while we eventually found the Matteucci galleries. They were worth it. The quality of the art on the walls and then the huge sculpture garden were beyond anything I had expected. It blew me away. Sculpture by Glenna Goodacre were my favorites. I inadvertently

photographed some of her works at the art museum but seeing what she had done in the Matteucci galleries was above and beyond. The gallery had a nice book of her sculpture. I need to find it on Amazon. Our next stop was lunch at the Shed. Libbie liked the lady playing music - she said it would be nice massage music. I bought her CD for Libbie's birthday. Our table was called where we sat down in a wonderful room decorated with art with the walls in primary colors - yellow and orange. I had a shedburger which came with fresh green chili's and yummy stuff. My heel became pretty painful to walk on as we

rounded the Plaza. When we finally got back I jumped into the car and we found a CVS where I purchased a heel gel pad. It made a difference in comfort. We also took a ride up to the Santa Fe Opera to scope out the joint. It was only 6 miles away and it was beautiful on the mountain top. We came back again and looked at photos and napped. I fell asleep for a few minutes, Libbie did not. We left for the Opera at 7:30 and made it to the preview lecture. The speaker was very dynamic and entertaining, even singing some of the phrases from Hoffman. The thunder and lightning rolled in as the opera started and it actually started getting windy and cold in the auditorium. The Opera was spectacular, well done. I used the binoculars to watch Nicklausse played by Kate Lindsey. For the curtain calls, she got the biggest applause. Santa Fe sure loves Kate. We left in a light rain. It seemed like a long time to come down off the mountain but it was only 7 minutes. Left the Opera house at 12:35 and we were on the Interstate at 12:42. We got to bed at 1 AM.

~

July 22, 2010 Santa Fe last day

This morning we walked to Zias Diner where I had a Quasadilla with eggs and chili peppers. My stomach was feeling the rich food and crying out for some simple cereal for breakfast. We cleaned up the condo and hit the road for Bryce. It seemed like a long drive. We finally got there, checked in and tried the visitor center which was going to close at 8. Too bad. It was a long day. We had dinner at Ruby's with 2 glasses of wine each. We each had flat iron steak. The

hotel

is really nice, wonderful amenities and convenient to everything.

We had a

little trouble finding it since the city is new and not on any maps.

~

July 23, 2010 Monument Valley

We had a very nice breakfast at Gouldings. Our table setter was a young Navajo

named Cheyenne. She looked and spoke like a China Doll rather than a Navajo

Indian. We then went into the Valley after paying

our \$5 per adult admission. We

followed a large bus and were wondering

if this thing was going to drive the

Valley. The passengers got

off and boarded jeeps for a narrated tour of the

landscape. We drove

it in our Toyota. The road was unbelievably rough and loose

sand

on the downslope. I pulled off at the first turnout because I was riding

the brakes and I could feel the brakes fading or was it my imagination?

The rest

of the way was OK but very rough and bumpy. I thoroughly

enjoyed the landscape

and the large rock outcroppings. We

bought a necklace from one of the Navajo

ladies vending on a lookout.

After our 2 hour drive of the valley we saw the end

of a trail

ride with many Indians arriving by horse at a Diabetes awareness

tent.

We went to the visitors center and shared a turkey sandwich and had

a

bottle of lemonade each while sitting at a bar overlooking the

valley. It was

wonderful and beautiful. Libbie asked a French lady

to take our picture. The

woman said she was from Paris. We got our

stuff together and headed for Bryce.

Could not find Bryce Canyon City

on the GPS so Libbie called the lodge. They

said the city is new

and not in our GPS yet. We headed for tropic, UT instead which got us close. After a little bit of driving around we then found our hotel

and the new city. The Best Western is beautiful. Very spacious and clean. Our room is by the elevator so we do hear a lot of talking however. We drove to the visitors center at the park then picked up some maps for info. Stopped at Rubys Inn for dinner. I had a Flat Iron steak with 2 glasses of wine, house Cabernet. All of it was good. Earlier in the day Libbie and I shared the German Chocolate Biti cake finishing the last of the Biti pies and cakes.

~

July 24, 2010 Bryce

We had the very nice breakfast buffet at our hotel. It's a large dining area.

After breakfast we walked to Ruby's and found out about the shuttle. They were

able to sell us two lifetime senior passes to the National Parks for \$10 each.

Park admission is normally \$25 per vehicle. The lady gave us a map and recommended route. We took the shuttle to Bryce Point which is at the end of the amphitheater and

got off at several points along the way before doing the hike to the

bottom at sunset point. We took the Navajo loop trail which has many

switchbacks then picked up the Queens Garden trail. The views were stimulating

and awesome. We got nice and exhilarated on the 3 hours on the trail. Came back

to our room and had Doritos and wine before

driving across the street for

dinner. I had Flat Iron steak again.

I could hardly walk back to the car to

drive across the street.

They were having firworks tonight for Utah pioneer days but we didn't

make it. I went to bed.

~

July 25, 2010 Death Valley

After a hardy breakfast we went into the park and drove to the 'rainbow vista at the end. Spectacular as usual. We next did several of the turnoffs before stopping by the visitors center for our departure. I bought a road atlas and parks DVD. The Atlas came in handy routing us a different way from the GPS method. Libbie was also able to track our progress on the maps to check on the GPS. We took Rte 14 over a volcano which was a very scenic route. Stopped in Cedar City for lunch then stopped again in Death Valley junction for photos of

the opera house. We took 190 into the Valley and stopped at the sign for photos.

Did not master the technique of using our self timer.

Libbie did a video and i

did a ridiculous 2 second self timer image.

We drove down into Furnace Creek.

The temp was 123. It felt like

a hair dryer hitting our face. Even our room felt warm with the AC

running full bore. It was really hot. I wasn't sure what i got us

into. We got into the car to go exploring. Found the Artists Drive and took

it. I made the mistake of leaving the engine running at the first overlook and

the temp gauge went all the way to hot. Not good

because the rest of the drive

was uphill and we started out hot.

I carefully monitored our temps and made sure

to shut the engine off

at each stop. The rocks were spectacular. We got back to Furnace

Ranch and went to the Saloon for hamburgers. Beforehand we went to our

room and had the crackers with Yellow Tail Shiraz. I probably had too many

glasses because I felt a little drunk. Or maybe it was the heat and day of driving. I had a Western BBQ Burger which came with fries. It was huge and yummy but pricey for a hamburger. \$35 for two burgers with fries!!! We drove to the restaurant and back to our room which was about 300 or 400 feet from the restaurant. I was exhausted and my foot hurt so driving seemed a good option.

~

July 26, 2010 Death Valley Jct

We went over to the Wrangler and the guy at the door told us it was 11.25 per person all inclusive for the breakfast buffet. We went for the deal since it seemed so reasonable compared to ala carte next door. I had bacon and eggs with coffee and juice. I was so thirsty from the dry heat that I had 3 glasses of OJ. We walked around the Borax Museum on the way back to our room. Encountered another one of those French woman in a bikini. Nice Body. We packed the car with the water we kept in the refrigerator and checked out. First stop was a dirt drive to Mosaic Canyon. Beautiful white and brown marble canyon walls. Next stop was Badwater which is a salt lake that still has some water in it. We walked out on the lake bed. It was amazing and beautiful but very hot. Next we did a drive along Artists drive, visited the Harmony Borax Works and then watched a slide show in the visitors center to cool off. I got lots of pics of the solar panels that power the place. 90 watts per panel on the label, 56 panels per bay and there were 4 bays. On our way out of the park we stopped at Zybriskie point a beautiful overview of multicolored hillsides. Drove the hot road, it was 117, to

Death Valley Junction where
we stopped for sandwiches at the Amaragosa Cafe. I
had a turkey, bacon
and cheese sandwich with Cole slaw and a root beer. It was a
pleasant
stop. We chatted with the waitress about Calif, the heat and LA.
She
doesn't like LA. The drive back was uneventful. Once we hit
the interstate, we
sailed right along and got to Joe's a little before
7. Joe made a pork butt
roast which was delicious. We went to bed
exhausted ready to begin working.

~

July 27, 2010 HB dishwasher

Went out to Sears Outlet store for a dishwasher. Also went to the real
Sears
store and decided the outlet Dishwasher for 514 with tax was
the one to get. We
also went to Lowes and Home Depot to look for drain
hoses. Bought an 8 foot
stainless steel supply line hose in Lowes
and then went out to Ace for a
compression fitting shut off because
the existing one was not 3/8 inch, it was
something bigger. This
all went well, ran a test run without dishes and there
were no leaks.
Dinner was the leftover pork butts which was good.

~

July 28, 2010 HB Life Guards

Libbie and I walked the pier in the morning. They're constructing tents
for the
Surf open this week. We watched Junior Lifeguards exercising,
running,
stretching and getting ready to swim. Watched Asians
catching sardines several
at a time while we walked to Rubys and back.
We walked Main St to Starbucks
where I ordered a small coffee and

shared a cranberry scone with Libbie.
When we got back Joe and I
went shopping in Home Depot. Bought a pocket door and
framing materials.
Had a little trouble getting it all into Joe's truck but we
drove
home with the tail gate open. Spent the day tearing down walls,
ducts and
plumbing. Ran into a gas line cutting a hole in the floor.
That was a close one.
This job has no end in sight. We ordered Thai
takeout which was delicious. Went
to bed exhausted.

~

July 29, 2010 Framing and flooring

Joe went surfing and Libbie and I did our usual walk out the pier watching
the
construction and lifeguard training. When we got back we started
working on
framing the pocket door. This involved cutting more
plumbing pipes, adding
nailers to the header for the door jamb,
nuking the old medicine closet and
installing the plastic floor drain
for the shower. I bought Joe a Skil Saw in
Walmart and used it to
cut the 3/4 inch piece of plywood for the floor. The
shower fixture
started leaking so we decided to cap it. Had to go to Home Depot
and
pick up the caps as well as lead free solder and flux. Also picked
up some
felt paper for between the plywood and on the walls under
the cement board.
Capped the leaking shower. Tonight we had Thai
takeout again that we purchased.
It was better than last night. Anne
nicholas sent an eMail today with her list
of photos and the script.
Richard is still sick. The doctor wants to send him to
the hospital.

~

July 30, 2010 floor

Libbie and I watched the surf city being constructed on the sand at HB for the US Open of Surfing. We got back at 10 to start working on the bathroom some more. This morning I went with joe and picked up a Skil Saw to cut the 3/4" plywood for the base. Dinner was tritip that Joe grilled.

~

July 31, 2010 bbq

We didn't do much this morning. I looked at some of the wiring and did some AVSA work. We left around noon for the Lapworths. They had a very nice BBQ with many slow cookers with meats. I had the barbarillo which is a slow cooked pot roast. I fixed it on a bun with some onions and peppers. Later in the evening we had ice cream splits with bananas and fudge and birthday cake. It was freezing cold. I only had a short sleeved shirt and my ears and nose were freezing cold. We got back around 9 PM.

~

August 01, 2010 shower door and seat

This morning I framed the door for the shower. Christa's Uncle Mike came over and helped with the shower seat and the blocking above for nailing sheetrock. He was a pretty good help. He will be doing the tiling next weekend. Joe made a variety of pizzas for dinner tonight. This afternoon while Libbie and Christa picked out tile Joe made Omaha Steak burgers with jalapenos for Mike and I for lunch. The girls ate at Wendy's. The bathroom project is slowly coming along. We also ran the vent stack up behind the shower. Mike helped cut the 2 inch holes above and below for the pipe.

~

August 02, 2010 Libbie Flies

Libbie went paddle boarding with Joe and Christa while I stayed home and added the numbering to the AVSA slides.
We had the leftover pizza for lunch. In the bathroom I worked on setting up the plumbing and also removing the toilet connection. We went out to Thai Wave on Main

St for dinner then at 7:30 I took Libbie to LAX for her 10:10 flight. Her terminal was the last one on the loop around which meant the 405 was easy to get to. I got back at around 9.

~

August 03, 2010 plumbing

I did a spreadsheet for the tile footage. Joe and Christa went out to order the tile while I worked on the shower control. It took a long time. I had a little trouble with the tee connection behind the future vanity but got it fixed by 7:15. We went out to the Huntington Brewery and picked up Pat for parking privileges. The street is closed and there are millions of people wandering about including a live band. After a half hour wait we got a front row seat overlooking the crowd. The do it yourself tacos were delicious. I had two Black Phoenix Stout beers. Thanks to Joes mug club they were served in a huge mug, at least a 24 ounce. We got back at 10 and I passed right out.

~

August 04, 2010 wiring

I tore right into the wiring. There is a lot of it!!!! Joe helped snake a wire to the ceiling center for the fan and light. I ran out to Home Depot and got a 10 foot section of 12/3 for the switched outlet. \$13!!! The portfolio NAV made another new high of 228. I don't think there is much upside left from here. For lunch we had turkey and cheese. I got pretty tired around 5:15 and quit while Joe continued to work on supporting the nailer.

~

August 19, 2010 Clinton Library

I came down all showered and dressed at 7:09. It was a very good sleep. Richard was watching TV and Anne was cooking in the kitchen. It was fun being with them. I recorded an audio CD of the Raleigh show and left it for Anne. She called Hortense and asked if I could come over. I got an address and quick directions and set out for Hortenses. I picked up some gas in Denton for 2.49 on the way.

Many many
traffic lights and some weird routing but I eventually found Hortenses

home. I should mention it's been fun checking on Facebook. I posted
Anne and

Richards pic yesterday in their plantroom and it was a
big hit on Facebook.

Had a nice chat on the back porch. Had some coffee
with Hortense, watched the

cows, visited the garden in front then

headed out. I set the GPS for Little

Rock. It doesn't have the Clinton

library. Traveling was OK until 30 miles from

Little Rock. Then

all traffic stopped. I got off the interstate and took a back
highway,

picking up some gas on the way. Got back on 10 miles later but
the

traffic was still heavy. Got to the accident and then things speeded
up again.

Got to the Clinton library 35 minutes before closing.

Paid the admission and

went through the place. Not very impressive.

I guess it's the archives that

count not the flash and glamour.

Checked into the Comfort Suites. It's

incredibly nice, even has a

bar with happy hour. Went out for a sub down the
street for dinner.

This was lunch as well.

~

August 20, 2010 Knoxville

Got up pretty early in Little Rock, I even set the alarm. The breakfast
starts at 6 and I was one of the first. Hit the road and watched the
sunrise on 40 Eastbound. There was a beautiful fog over the fields
giving them an ethereal quality in the morning sunrise. Called Knoxville
once at 10:46 and left a message. Around Dickson just before Nashville
I got stuck in a long construction traffic jam. I lost about 30
minutes. With the time change I ended up at the hotel at 4 PM. Took
a shower and put on clean clothes. Later in the evening I went out for
dinner. Found a Panera's and had French Onion soup and an Italian deli
sandwich. Didn't care for the sandwich. In the parking lot after
dinner my car was struck by a college girl returning. She couldn't see
out her back window and hit the side of my car. We exchanged info and

went home.

~

August 21, 2010 home

Got up a little later than usual. I had the hotel eggs and sausage. Took a banana and hit the road. It was misting when I left Nashville. It turned to full scale rain in the Smokeys and also got pretty depressingly dark. Stopped at a McDonalds for coffee just before the mountains and drove in rain all the way to Hickory. When the rain finally stopped I needed gas. Did a fill up for 2.59 per gal which wasn't too bad. I missed the turn onto 421 at Greensboro but enjoyed hwy 87 at Graham to Pittsboro. This road seems to have been improved since the last time I took it. Got into the house door at 1:30. Emptied the car of the suitcases and Libbie helped by immediately starting to do laundry with the dirty clothes. We went out to BJ's to get ribs and other things for dinner. We had ribs, wine and sweet potato. Welcome Home Tom!!!!

~

August 22, 2010 RLT

Woke a little later and spent some time watching the morning TV shows. It's nice to be in my own home for a change instead of a hotel room. Did some sorting of papers and clothes before getting dressed for RLT performance of The Putnam County Spelling Bee. It was great as usual. Came home and had Libbie's outstanding pizza. It seems to have been a long time.

~

August 23, 2010 estimates

More catch up. Ran around this morning and got the car repair estimates. Later in the day I finished the new intro section of the AVSA DVD. Still could not get the DVD Styler program to work without failing with an over-run. Dinner was Mahi Mahi burgers.

~

August 24, 2010 traviata

Did the groceries this morning, looked at interesting photos on backpage for Raleigh and went to Home Depot for a LAN wire tester. I mistakenly thought the wire going to the office was bad but I later realized the switch was bad. Replaced the wire unnecessarily then replaced the switch. This got Traviata working again. I heard from the Father of Lydia Buckley in Knoxville. He said he will check with State Farm. I sent the estimates last night. We went to La Cocina and ordered 4 Margaritas because of John Regans \$5 he sent us. We had La Cocina Quesadilla for dinner. Very good.

~

August 25, 2010 car fix up

State Farm authorized the car repair and a rental car. I went to Hendricks but there were no rental cars. They said to come back at 4. Came back and got a Dodge Caliper with Sirius Satellite. Found the Met channel and I was happy!!! Dinner was homemade Eggplant Parmesan that Libbie made. Very nice.

~

August 26, 2010 explosion

We heard a loud explosion outside the hosue today. Went out and found that the battery in our standby generator blew up. Wow. Did some online research and found it was prevalent to Generac generators. The charging circuit for battery maintenance is too high and boils the water out. NExt time a test cycle puts a demand on the battery the plates warp, touch and spark igninting the hydrogen gas in the now hollow battery. The result is boom. Bought a new battery at Walmart. Dinner was the Trader Joes pasta in Marinar sauce. After dinner I packaged up the DVD and took it to he Post Office where I used the self serve kiosk to send it out Priority Mail to Denton. I enjoyed waiting for a girl in front of me who had a blonde pony tail and tight gray bicycle shorts framing her nicely shaped derriere.

~

August 27, 2010 cleanup

I decided to do a cleanup today. Started by scanning the AVM's Libbie found for me with sample David Buttram articles. I also went through a lot of my trip receipts and started filling the garbage can. Mucho stuff. We went to the Farmers Market this afternoon and picked up lots

of produce and bought shrimp. Came back and lost it for the day. No momentum here!!!! Bought tickets to Rheingold, the first of the HD series this Fall. Tix don't go on sale to the public until Sept 7 but Fandango is selling them now!!! This is the last day for my Schwab billing period. I'll wait till later in the week for additional Met HD purchases. The shrimp and corn was delicious which we had with Shiraz. After dinner we wanted Skinny Minty so I drove and Libbie went into the store and bought a half gallon.

~

August 28, 2010

Started the day by disassembling the generator control panel. I located the voltage regulator, measured an output voltage of 14.4 which is too high since the battery has been installed for 2 days now. After pulling the leads I found the battery was at 13.3 which is where I wanted it to be. I'll install the battery tender but first I'll need to run 110 volts out to the generator which it currently does not have. Next task was the lawn. Mowed the backyard but did not finish the trimming. I also took a walk to the back of the property and discovered another tree had fallen on the fence and pulled it apart at the gate. Libbie and I took the rental car to Fresh Market to forage for food. We didn't want to get out of the car since the Met Sirius channel was running Lucia from 1966 with Joan Sutherland. We got steak kabobs which were delicious. There were lots of sampling going on inside. We tried the apple pie and Gelato and ended up buying it. The Gelato was free with a pie purchase. I now have removed the piles of paper in the office but still have a ways to go for a full cleanup. It's getting there. For dinner we had Shiraz, steak kabobs and corn with apple pie and gelato for dessert. The kabobs were marinated with Thomas's but not the flavor we normally use.

~

August 29, 2010 cleanup

Did not go out for the paper today. Finished cleaning the office then replaced many of the old AC outlets. Libbie made her super pizza, this time with a pepper from the garden. We watched the Emmys in the evening. It was a better than usual show.

~

August 30, 2010 Briyani

Picked up the conduit for the generator. I need to get 110volts out there for the battery charger which I ordered from Amazon. Did some extensive research on sirius satellite radios and programming. I need a radio with ALA Carte programming which will allow me to purchase the music only option for 6.99 per month plus 50 cents for the Met premium channel. Dinner was Briyani. It's been a while since we had that. Tonight I started a blog for my California trip. I'm supplementing the writing with pictures. It's a lot of work but should be entertaining. Wish I did it from the road.

~

August 31, 2010 snakes and wire

Last day of the month. I went under the house to run a wire in the conduit. My effort was short circuited by a Southern Racer snake coiled up where the wire comes through the foundation. I left him there and went back a few hours later. He was gone so I ran the wire into the generator. Now I need to hook up both ends. Dinner was crab cake sandwiches which were yummy since we have nice ripe tomatoes. I'm happy all the garbage from upstairs went out today.

~

September 01, 2010 First day of Month

Messed around on the web quite a bit. Worked on my trip blog, looked at BP. Went out to Home Depot for a utility box and mounted an electrical outlet inside the generator. IT's screwed down inside the generator so it's pretty secure. I hope there's room for the battery tender that's coming from Amazon. The 7 port hub arrived this afternoon from Newegg. I got tired of my phone always dying because of a bad battery so I bought a new phone at Walmart. It needs 16 hours to charge. Dinner was sole with spinach and lima beans and a sauce. A Trader Joe's creation. We had it with Farmers Market corn. We watched a very nice Great Performances with Renee Fleming and Dimitri H. from St Petersburg. It was great.

~

September 02, 2010 walk

Had a quick trip to Sanford this morning. Back at 1 then took a walk around the lake. Summer is rapidly coming to a close. Came back from the

lake sweaty and showered, didn't like the barbershop smell on my body.
Dinner was eggplant parmesan. Mmmm.

~

September 03, 2010 First Friday

The charger arrived from Amazon. This is a Battery Tender plus which maintains the charge on a lead acid battery rather than trickle charge it all the time. Hopefully the new Walmart lead acid battery won't blow up when maintained this way. I went under the house and ran the wire to a junction box by the access door. Fortunately it was on the Family Room breaker so it will be activated when the generator is running. This is more good luck. Got everything hooked up, put plates and outlet covers on and then activated the power. The red charging light came on. I took pictures of the charger with the light on only to document the project for my files. I worked some more on the blog which I signed up for from Google. It's really going nice. Tonight is First Friday. I made reservations for the Duck and dumpling at 8. We went to VAE first, looked at a painting of birds swallowing pills and feather in Rx bottles. Don't know about that. Walked through Artspace, more wine and saw a sad exhibit in the front gallery. A Woman lost her 20 year old son 4 years ago. she made wall art from his homework papers and other possessions. So sad. The duck was great. Slow wervice but very nice food. Libbie had Chicken Pad Thai and I had beef and black bean. Nice. Home at 9:30. Lots of dressed up pretty young woman running around.

~

September 04, 2010 Blog

Spent the whole day working on my blog. Sent the link to Jim Fatata. It's looking good. in the PM we went to Fresh market and picked up some skewered beef kabobs. Libbie got the Thomas's they use as a marinade for future meals. Also picked up some Chilean Cabernet in the store after tasting it. Dinner was roast potatoes and beets, beef kabobs and wine. Good stuff.

~

September 05, 2010 Seagroves

After a brief hesitation I ended up getting the Sunday paper. Today is a cooler day, it's only in the 80's with no humidity. We walked around

Seagrove out to 1010 and back to the Glembocki tree through Surry.
Nice walk. I wanted to see the new progress back there. Lots of new
homes sold, still. Studied BP some more. Reading about Tori of Cary online.
Libbie made her wonderful pizza again.

~

September 06, 2010 blogger

Spent most of the day doing the blog finishing up the Monument valley
trip and drive to Bryce. Dinner was beanburger with our fresh tomatoes
on a bun and some bbq beans.

~

September 07, 2010 a park day

Took some time off from the blogging world today although I did upload
the pics of Bryce. Now it just needs the commentary. Took a walk this
afternoon. It was quite warm but I enjoyed driving over to the park
and then walking around the lake. dinner was pasta followed by skinny
minty ice cream.

~

September 08, 2010 hot

I seem to be very hot this morning, major sweating. I turned the fan off
and closed the windows and turned the A/C on. Maybe this will help.
Started taking a look at the buzzer on Kahlo. Ideally it will get
turned over to an interrupt service routine. Weighed myself after breakfast.
I am 235, yikes!!!! How did that happen?

This afternoon I
worked on the Kahlo buzzer routines. Have to use the interrupt approach
since a timer output is not available. Dinner was Kroger rotisserie
chicken with beets and potatoes. Finished up Bryce Canyon in the blog.
On to Death Valley!!!

~

September 09, 2010 blog

Spent an inordinate amount of time on the blog today. Did a little writing

of reviews on TER and the other site. Dinner was leftover rotisserie chicken with baked beets and potatoes.

~

September 10, 2010 blog

Plugged a Kahlo card in back in the shop and it seems to work except for some broken LCD wires. I'll use this. Did some more looking around on BP. Finished the Death Valley portion of my trip. That place is beautiful. Need to get working on the Hortense article next. Weeded the daylilies and the rose garden. Everything is in bad shape. Put some water down on the daylilies. Dinner tonight was Italian sausage on buns with onions and peppers. We accompanied the meal with steamfresh veggie corn and Shiraz.

~

September 11, 2010 Chilis

We used the Chilis coupon and ordered ribs from Chilis in Cary. Left early and picked up Shiraz in Trader Joes to have with dinner. The ribs with two sides and a tip cost 20. The card is a \$50 card.

~

September 12, 2010 Lady Gaga

later in the day picked up the paper at McDonalds. Lots of people around Mickey Ds. Libbie made her excellent pizza which we ate and then watched Lady Gaga win 8 awards on the MTV awards.

~

September 13, 2010 article

started writing the Pittman article on Google Docs. Did a lot of reviewing of BP, found a match in Spring Hill. Blew the leaves off the driveway for Violet club tomorrow.

~

September 14, 2010 violet club

Finished up the Pittman article then hosted Violet club today. This went on forever. I needed the time to get ready for Florida. Dinner was pasta I picked up in Krogers when I did the groceries. Spent the late evening hours packing everything in the car. I hope I don't forget anything. Went to bed around 11 PM.

~

September 15, 2010 sarasota drive

My target to leave was 6:45. I actually left at 6:55 but skipped breakfast. I didn't make it to Florence, mile marker 164. I had to stop at marker 181 because the gas light came on. Filled the tank and got an egg McMuffin. It was an OK stop. Gas was 2.46. As always, I then stopped just before the Florida border and filled up at 2.55. Easy traveling through Orlando at 3:45 and arriving in Sarasota around 5:30. Was not hungry tonight so I went to Nokomis Lowes for a new fill valve and stopped at Mickey Ds for a southern chicken sandwich. It was OK, will not order again. The reason for the fill valve was because the master bath toilet would not fill. I reasoned it would fill after I turned the water on, went outside when done to turn on the water and the fill valve did nothing, even after I took the lid off and tried moving the ball up and down manually.

~

September 16, 2010 Nokomis

This was an easy day, so easy that I took a nap this afternoon after a trip to Nokomis. Returned the Waterpik to Lowes in Nokomis because it was made of plastic. I don't think it will hold up in the shower, especially if it gets dropped on the hard tiles. Took a nap after lunch and my Nokomis trip. Woke in time to go to the clubhouse to order ribs, baked potato and veggies. Very good but I wasn't that hungry. Found brushpicks at Walgreens in Palmer Ranch. the one in Osprey didn't have them. These are important after something like ribs. Picked up some frozen yogurt which really made my tummy stuffed. Replaced the bathroom fill valve today which I purchased in Lowes last night. The toilet flushes very nicely. Now I need to do something about the refrigerator.

~

September 17, 2010 Google Voice

Pumped up the bike tires to 40 from the 20 they were at. Went to Leather Express and got a quote for a sofa and love seat. \$2500 will fix me up with top quality. Bought a Logitech headset at Best Buy. Tried using Google Voice to call Libbie and I was pretty happy with our conversation. It was very clear and rarely missed a syllable. Good stuff. I had the rest of the ribs for dinner. Still a lot of food.

~

September 18, 2010 Cycling

Started out by spackling the holes in the wall next to the light. I put down 2 coats of spackle and think the hole is now invisible. Disconnected the light and suspended it by a string for now. I also had to shop vac behind the mirror since there was a lot of crud there. I taped all the edges and it's ready for painting. I was going to do this today but ended up taking a 5 1/2 hour bike ride all the way to Venice and then on the Venice Waterway trail. I was tired and hungry when I got back. I also seem to be sunburned, especially on my forehead and arms. I went running around looking at Shams. I visited Target, Penneys and Bed Bath and Beyond. They don't seem to make the larger size shams. What I did find was incredibly expensive. For dinner I didn't feel like eating much but I stopped at Subway and got a teriyaki chicken sub. It was not bad but I think I will stick to turkey in the future.

~

September 19, 2010 washing machine

Picked up the paper late and read it while having a Publix donut and coffee. I also ran out of cereal so I picked up some for tomorrow. For dinner today I ordered a Cuban with onion petals from the clubhouse. It was very good. I spent some time working on the final part of my Disney story based on feedback. Studied BP some more and also called Hortense about the name of her dog. She could hardly hear me, but I could hear her quite well. Libbie called later and told me the washing machine totally quit. She went to Sears and inquired about a washer but they wouldn't take my credit card over the phone. We have to decide what else to do. I could terminate my trip and come home but that's not likely.

~

September 20, 2010 purchase washer

This morning I went to Sears and purchased the new washing machine. It

was off sale but they gave me the sale price because they still had the sign up. Had some trouble with the Schwab card because it was refused. Called Schwab and got them to do an authorization over the phone for \$805, the price of the machine including tax and delivery. I get the delivery charge back in the form of a rebate which is going to be a Mastercard debit card. Oh well. Took a bike ride around Stoneybrook and stopped in to talk to the realtor about rentals. I wanted their take on a new refrigerator without water and ice on the door. they thought it was OK.

~

September 21, 2010 pack up

Took a trip to Tampa this morning over by the stadium and Steinbrenner field. Very nice but I won't go back. the stadium is on Dale Mabry. Packed my stuff for the drive. Dinner was fire grilled frozen pizza, two individual round pies. Not very good. I scrubbed some stains on the tile floor, cleaned the sink. I wish I had Scooby here.

~

September 22, 2010 drive

Got out of bed naturally at 3:52 this morning and started packing the car. I was on the road at 4:32 AM. It was pretty dark and I had trouble seeing the thermos for pouring coffee. Stopped up I-95 somewhere above Daytona Beach for an Egg McMuffin from Mickey Dees. When I got to Jax at 7:21 all lanes were stopped. We crept for miles until 8:21 when I reached the scene of the accident. An ambulance crossed the median and flipped closing all lanes. This was a minor setback and put me back an hour. Stopped at St Mary's in Georgia for a tank of gas, stopped at exit 181 between Florence and Dillon for a gas top off and continued. Got home around 4:30 without further incident. Libbie and I went out for dinner at 6:30 to La Cocina to celebrate my homecoming with Margaritas and dinner.

~

September 23, 2010 Chilis

Did a lot of catching up and organizing of pictures, files, etc from my trip. In the evening Libbie and I went to Chili's for Ribs and used the rest of the \$50 gift card. We had Cabernet wine, half rack of ribs and loaded mashed potatoes. For desert we had Skinny Minty I picked

up in Krogers today. When we first sat down in Chili's there were some very unruly kids behind us. they were fighting and screaming and very loud. We asked to be moved to the other side of the restaurant.

~

September 24, 2010 MBEd dot org

Libbie left this morning for Sue's house. She called every hour of her journey with a stop first at Holly's for lunch. Spent most of the day on the internet. My new contest kit from CCI came today. It's a NXP arm processor from mbed.org and has usb and ethernet built in as well as port drivers, SPI and other stuff. Good chip. I need to play with it. Dinner was Margherita pizza, the whole thing. This is bad news!!!! I want to lose weight.

~

September 25, 2010 digging

Worked out in the yard diverting the water from Longo's sump pump. I don't understand the pump - it hasn't rained in a month but when I was there it cycled and poured several gallons of water out the 4 inch corrugated pipe. I had a beanburger for dinner with onion and tomato. I need to lose weight but I bought chips and ice cream today. Uggh. Started reading the Nicholas Sparks novel in earnest. I like it. Also spent a lot of time browsing BP. Went to Home Depot and bought a washing machine floor pan for the new washer. I need to put a drain in the floor which is going to be challenging but not impossible. The biggest challenge will be getting the new machine into the pan. Today after I dug in the mud in the woods I was covered with mud so I took a shower and also ran my dirty clothes through the new machine. Libbie talked to me over the phone and she wasn't happy about this. Not sure what else I could have done.

~

September 26, 2010 Sunday morning

Up and out of bed at 5 this morning. I went for the paper at 6:15 and watched GMA where Marysol is leaving then I watched CBS's Sunday morning. Not very interesting except for the story about a top designer who was a playboy centerfold in September 1994. Kelly Wearstler is her name, formerly Kelly Gallagher. The TIVO decided to update during the last story throwing itself off the air. Today I started getting serious

about my diet and cut back significantly. When I went to a google docs spreadsheet to count my daily eating log, it was still up at 1400 calories. I need to do better. Part of the problem was 2 slices of bread loaded with butter which counted for 500 of my calories today, or nearly half of my intake. I went into the woods and watched the sump drain from Longos. It looks like it's pumping every 15 minutes even though it hasn't rained it 6 weeks. I heard from Libbie today as she makes her way to Arlene's house from Sue's. I then tried building a dam with 4 wheelbarrows of dirt from the Glembocki quarry. Came inside and took a shower and then went to reading Nicholas Sparks. Love the book, "At First Sight".

~

September 27, 2010 Rain

Didn't get up till 6:10 today. After breakfast went to the greenhouse with the other invoices, topped off the batteries in both the controller and the generator. Will see if the generator starts tomorrow. Went to the CU with a BB check and withdrew some hobby money then registered the Prius and the Trailer at the DMV in South Hills. It's raining pretty good today and in addition, it's dark and dreary outside. Figured out a repair methodology for the greenhouse covering using a PVC 1x4. I'll bow it with string, hold it up with conduit sections and staple to it from the outside. Libbie called at 2:30 announcing she safely made it to RI after a 5 hour drive in the rain.

Tonight is opening

night at the Met. I may purchase a trial subscription.

Bought

a Met Player subscription but didn't need it since the website broadcast is free. Dinner was bean-burger with onion and tomato. Very nice.

Rheingold was wonderful as I got transported to Valhalla. Loved it!!!!

~

September 28, 2010 hoffman

Nice day today. The sun is out and it's a little cooler. Turned the A/C off and turned the house fan on. Spent the day reading first about the mbed.org processor and then the Nicholas Sparks book. Took out a Sirius trial subscription and listened to Hoffman tonight. Libbie called during the first act. I absolutely have fallen in love with this opera. When the opera was done I stayed up and finished the Nicholas Sparks book. It was a tear jerker at the end since Lexie dies in childbirth. Wow, good story. Dinner was a bean-burger and broccoli salad. Pretty good stuff for a total of 1400 calories. I'm determined to lose

a lot weight fast this first two weeks of detox inspired by Drew Carey.

~

September 29, 2010 rain rain rain

Woke to rain this morning. Ended up turning down the volume on the alarm to have a few more minutes of silence but eventually got out and into the shower. Checked the specials on Wednesday but didn't bite. Jennifer called that house 1 top shutter was stuck and the charger is making ticking noises. Went over in the rain after lunch and found the battery is totally dead, as in shorted. Need to replace. Freed the stuck shutter. I need to really take it down and rebuild the motor. I also took a look at the torn plastic top. It looks like it was barely holding on to the wood edge and just pulled away. I'll put a PVC 1x4 in there and staple it from the outside. Came back and made some more broccoli salad but this time using fat free mayo which only has 10 calories per tbsp. I put too much vinegar into it. Dinner was a Chile Rejeno. Diet discipline has been excellent, my food log shows less than 1500 calories a day. Will listen to Rigoletto tonight from the Met live over Sirius. Need another book to read. I guess I have a new Carl Hiaasen which came from Amazon.

~

September 30, 2010 greenhouse walls

Went over to the greenhouse and started putting up the plastic wall. The Onan generator battery is toast. I'll need to replace it. The thing ran dry over the summer and the trickle charger kept putting a charge into it until it died for good. At least it didn't explode like the one at home. This one needs a battery tender hooked up. Stopped the wall because we don't have enough plastic to finish. Dinner was a bean burger with onion and tomato. Went through the pictures from Cole and Emilys wedding. They really came out well. The new camera plus our experience really shows. There's not a bad shot in the bunch. I have to admit that all the people posed pictures are pretty boring.

~

October 01, 2010 Watson wedding DVD

Stopped by Lowes and got battens and a PVC 1x4 for the greenhouse. Went to the greenhouse and installed the 1x4 and then went outside to staple to it, repairing the roof on house 1. Hopefully it will inflate.

Jack helped me do this. He remarked that he is 75 now. Jennifer was cutting horses for her football team. Had to go to both Lowes and Home Depot looking for more plastic for the divider wall. Bought a roll of 8x100 4 mil thick stuff because that's all I could find. Put the wall up and now we're ready for cooler weather tonight. Back home I started cutting up the downed Maple in the backyard but then went inside, got cleaned up and tried the washer for the first time in the new pan. All seems to work as normal, after I turned the water back on of course. I had initially turned it off when I moved it for the pan. Dinner was a broccoli salad prelude followed by a bean burger. I love those things with a slice of tomato and an onion. I finished the Watson DVD slide show this evening and then tried it on the TV. It looks pretty good. We did some excellent photography.

~

October 02, 2010 Watson

Cole and Emily come over today to fetch their wedding pics. I plan to show them the DVD slide show. After that I want to pick up a new Onan battery at Walmart. Did not have any OJ this morning. I'm thinking of suspending this temporarily to pick up an extra 100 calories a day. I'll think about it. The Calcium and other nutrients are important. It may be that I'll wait until grocery day to replenish the OJ.

Cole

and Emily came over around 1. I showed them the DVD slide show and gave them a copy of the pictures. I also told them I could build an album for them if they want. After that I went outside and worked on the downed tree for a while, dragging branches to the pile. Next order of business was to drive over to the greenhouse and look everything over. The top is mostly inflated. All the plastic of the divider wall is OK. I need to cut two clips and bring them over. Had a couple of Gorditos for dinner. The calorie count is very high - 350 each!!!! Good thing there was no OJ today.

~

October 03, 2010 battery

I was up pretty early and fetched the paper at 7 am. It was supposed to rain but it never happened, in fact the sun came out. Took the old battery to Walmart and bought a replacement for the Onan. Drove straight to the greenhouse and installed it. I also put a few strips of tape in a few places under the cool cells to hold it until I get it nailed down tomorrow. Went home and worked on the backyard tree. Got cleaned up from that and made a trip to the Triangle Outlet Mall looking

for pillow shams. The place is practically closed down. All the stores are gone, there seems to be only about 5 or 6 of them open. Wow, what a change. Came home and refueled the chain saw, adjusted the chain and went at the crown again. Libbie said Jennifer wants the wood from the trunk. Finished removing the crown. Now there is only the trunk remaining, the hard stuff. My willpower diet is going great. Although my weight has flatlined at 232, I'm happy with my belly going down and also the fact that I've been getting by on less than 1300 calories per day. The calculators I've used online suggest a calorie intake of 2500 to 3000 for my height and weight. Based on a consumption rate of 1300, a 1500 calorie deficit is about 1/2 pound a day real loss. Today is day 7 so this is a 3 1/2 pound week.

~

October 04, 2010 weight

Didn't get up till 7 today. I really slept well last night. Was happy to see the scale at 231 this morning after flat lining for a few days. I will be even be happier if I see it go below 230. Loaded up the compressor and nail gun and went to the greenhouse. Put all the battens down. The gun performed flawlessly. I used the Northern Framing nailer with 2 1/2 " nails that look like they would be 8 penny. I didn't have much faith in this thing but it did not jam once. Picked up all the old batten scraps and put them in our trash can for tomorrow. I noticed the inflation was still not at 100% so I cleaned the intake screen with a brush. Did not check to see how it did. I had a disaster with Tom Yum soup. It was frozen so in the attempt to get it out of the package it flew forward and landed on the floor shattering into lots of little frozen cubes on the floor. Picked them up and cooked them in the microwave. Did not care for the soup. afterwards I had a Mahi Mahi burger with tomato on a bun it was delicious. Turned on Sirius tonight and listened to Rheingold again, broadcast live from the Met. Nice.

~

October 05, 2010 tree

Got up slightly later although I woke earlier in the morning around 4. Fell asleep again and got up at 6. Went out after breakfast for groceries. Around 8 Libbie called from Piscataway, she was lost for 20 minutes trying to find her way out. I don't know why she didn't use GPS. She called again around 12 that she arrived at Sue's and was going to come all the way home today. I went out into the yard and moved the rest of the tree trunk off the lawn and also blew off the driveway,

something I was planning to do. I also want to mow the lawn but I was too tired at 2 so I came in. Worked on the buzzer on the microwave. Got an external buzzer working but when I tried to get the internal buzzer to work the DC to Dc converter started smoking. At that moment Libbie arrived on her long drive back from the Northeast. For dinner we went out to La Cocina which killed my diet since in addition to the La Cocina Quesadilla I also had chips and a Margarita.

~

October 06, 2010 Sirius

Today I worked on the schematic and layout for Kahlo. Updated the schematic and now I want to extract the buzzer from a QYX Orcad MAX layout file. I don't have the QYX libraries but I need to figure out how to get those parts into a library I can use. Will Google this later. Enjoyed some Sirius operas today. I got the Atom processor working and receiving Sirius. Using the Compact Flash makes the thing pretty slow. I researched small cheap SATA drives to put into this thing.

The

Sirius receiver arrived via USPS from an eBay dealer in Chicago. I have enjoyed some operas today using the online version. When the boombox gets here I'll see if this thing works in the house. We listened to Hoffman today live from the Met at 8 PM on Sirius. Dinner was a beanburger with Lima Beans.

~

October 07, 2010 boombox

This morning I ordered a small Sata drive from Newegg for the Atom PC. I'll see if this thing speeds it up. Amazon sent me a tracking/shipping link for the Sirius boombox. I was pretty happy to see it was out for delivery via UPS which means it should arrive today. Orcad layout files can be converted to libraries according to the info I found via Google.

The boombox arrived and I hooked it up immediately. I love it, except the signal with the antenna out the window the A/C is in is not good. Probably too many trees. Tried tuning to various channels and then listened to an opera. It's dropping in and out. Sirius main display only shows 2 bars most of the time, one bar others. Dinner tonight was a bean burger we had on the back porch. Afterwards we listened to the WCPE opera house.

~

October 08, 2010 Tuna Steak, Shade Cloth

Paid the last of the Visa bill, this time with checking account money. It was difficult since I used Scottrade money, Schwab money and then checking to pay off \$3100 which included \$500 for Sarasota trip expenses, \$550 for Lonestar plane tickets, \$500 for Touchstone 3D and the \$830 Washing Machine. We can't do this every time but hopefully this was an exception. I used Fandango bucks I purchased last night to buy opera tix to Don Carlo and Don Pasquale. Using the Visa signature card it was a 20% savings. I still have \$8 on the card. Went to the greenhouse at noon and pulled the shade off the front two houses with Libbie. Thank goodness it's 80 out today. Later we went to BJ's to get Salmon but they didn't have any so we got tuna steaks and dishwashing stuff. I also picked up a pair of jeans, one size too small as an incentive to lose weight. Dinner was tuna steak with peas and mushrooms (Steamfresh). Water to drink.

~

October 09, 2010 Rheingold

Did the Kahlo layout in the morning then left for Rheingold at 11:30. It was a 1:00 performance. The theater was not full. Met Jim there and talked about his upcoming NY trip and my drive to Santa Fe. The Opera was great although I'm not sure the investment in the machine for the Ring was worth it. It was a very nice performance with Brynn Terfel and Stephanie Blythe. Dinner was tuna steak and butternut squash. This was quite good. We had water again with dinner. No wine.

~

October 10, 2010 Sirius, Kahlo

Finished the Kahlo 4 job and sent it to AP Circuits. Hopefully all is well. Now I need a Digikey order for parts. Spoke with the Benzigers. They will try coming here the 27th. I offered them my car for their visits to Holly and Sue. Got the ladder set up in front of the house and placed the Sirius antenna on the roof. It's just laying there but it has a more clear view of the sky. Performance seems to be better. It's hard to tell because the porch roof worked from time to time as well but with a few dropouts. So far no dropouts listening to Sirius with the antenna higher up on the roof. At one time the signal strength meter was showing full scale reading before it later dropped to half. The antenna higher up on the roof definitely works. The temp went

up to 86 this afternoon. We went to AC Moore to get streamer material for my river in the MAAVS staging. Tried looking for bulbs at Lowes but they were picked over. Did better at Home Depot, got a package of 60 Crocuses but rejected the daffs. They were small and had rotted ones. The lady at the register said they have been here a while. Next we went to Krogers where I bought a small box of daffs and a box of grape hyacinths. Libbie made whole wheat pizza for dinner. Earlier in the day I made a broccoli salad.

~

October 11, 2010 Columbus day

Today is Columbus day, no mail or stock market. The market is on a tear lately with just about everything going up in price. I cut up the last of the soffit scraps and put them in the garbage. Dinner was a bean burger with tomato and onion.

~

October 12, 2010 Violets

Did a grocery run and had to get back for Violet club which met at noon on our back porch. I studied streaming and recording of streams. We listened to Hoffman live from the met tonight which I recorded using Audacity. Dinner was pasta which I picked up in Trader Joes this morning.

~

October 13, 2010 streaming.

Worked all morning on trying to configure streaming for the Sirius. I finally succeeded around noon with a prepackaged program from Australia called Broadstream. It's a no config required solution. Once I installed the program and hooked up Sirius, I was able to listen on Manon to a stream broadcast by Cosi. I went downstairs at lunch time and had thais tuned into the broadcast. Libbie was also able to tune in, so this is a working stream solution.

I found the PCB will be coming tomorrow so I got busy and ordered the rest of the electronic parts. Digikey is out of the AVR CPU's so I placed an order with Mouser but because the buzzer is sourced at Digikey, I also had to place an order with them. Dinner was salmon with baked beets and potatoes. We went to the Farmers Market this afternoon for pansies but also stopped at BJ's for jeans for me and ended up getting salmon which was yummy.

It's been a while.

~

October 14, 2010 PCB

The PCB's came this morning in the rain. I got to work right away putting the parts on that I did have. I'm missing the negative converters and one CPU. This means at least I will be able to get one PCB running with the recycled CPU. Dinner tonight was crabcakes with tomato.

~

October 15, 2010 Dracula

Worked some more on the PCB's. I almost have one ready to power up. I ran out to Home Depot for heavier gauge solder for the power connector. This worked well since it allowed me to pool lots of solder into the mounting hole covering the terminal of the PCB jack. I also mounted a 485 transceiver in a socket on the card. I'll use this for data logging and possibly using the device as a terminal, especially to display greenhouse data. I mowed the lawn in the front and then Libbie and I took a walk around Seagrove Farms today. This morning I bought balcony tickets for Dracula tonight by Carolina Ballet in Fletcher theater. We had a Mahi sandwich before leaving and really enjoyed the performance. It was lots of technical wizardry, nice music by a live orchestra and storytelling told through the ballet. Wonderful (but expensive).

~

October 16, 2010 Mouser

The rest of the PCB parts came today from Mouser. Libbie and I went to the new Carolina Pottery looking for a large pot. We bought a 14 inch clay pot then went to Raleigh Little theater to swap our tickets from next weekend for tomorrows Piano Lesson play. We got stuck in State Fair traffic but it wasn't too bad. For dinner we had salmon, sweet potato and Shiraz. I drove Libbie to Krogers and we picked up some ice cream and filled the gas tank. Just before dinner I put the Charge Pump onto the card and measured minus 5 volts from it as it was supposed to be. Good deal. No heartbeat but the LCD is displaying the banner.

~

October 17, 2010

We got up late today, almost 7:30. I picked up the newspaper and after finishing it worked upstairs some more. I got the beeper and heartbeat working. Later in the day I tried a new keypad and that did the trick. Still need to hook it to a microwave. We went to HH Gregg in Apex for 3 microwaves. They sent us to the airport where we visited the HH Gregg warehouse and got our microwaves. Took them home, showered and dressed for RLT. On the way to RLT we stopped at JoAnn's for fabric for MAAVS. There was an incredible line. We waited almost an hour to get the fabric cut then hurried to the RLT. Arrived there at 2:45 which was not too bad. We had a small worry about the State Fair traffic but it was OK. The Piano Lesson play finished at 6:11. Libbie pulled a trick out of her hat by preparing a previously frozen dough ball. We had very nice thin crust pizza.

~

October 18, 2010 controller card

Tried modifying a second microwave for testing the controller card. This card didn't work either, so the problem must be in the card, not the microwave. There is no time left before our trip to debug this. Dinner was pasta from Trader Joes.

~

October 19, 2010 packing

This was a get packing day for Owego. Libbie brought the Prius home packed to the gills with plants. I packed up the table cloths and coffee cans into a camera bag which had to be tucked in on the floor behind the seat. Libbie has no blooms so we printed first class labels with pictures for her plants. Dinner was bean burger on a bun with tomato.

~

October 20, 2010 drive

We got going with the Prius filled to the ceiling around 7 AM. The first part of the trip was misty with heavier rain on I-95 in Richmond. We took 17 at Fredericksburg to 81. Stopped at McDonalds outside of Harrisburg for lunch then continued to Owego. Arrived around 6 PM just before dark. We realized we came a day early from original plan. After getting settled in the Holiday Inn next door we went out to dinner

to Tonys down the street on the river. I had Italian Sausage Parmesan with 2 glasses of house cabernet which was pretty good. It was a nice dinner out. Internet service in the Holiday Inn was terrible.

~

October 21, 2010 Owego

The Holiday inn breakfast was very nice. I had sausage with an egg omelet which was good. After breakfast we toured Owego. Visited the cemetery and took pictures at the Indian Maiden overlook. Visited Tioga Gardens, Beecher Hill. Stopped at the gas pipeline and also on the road opposite Beecher looking across. Visited downtown Apalachin. what a depressing area. We toured downtown Owego and took the riverwalk behind the buildings on Front street. This was my first time seeing the back of the building foundations up close. We stopped in the bookshop where Libbie bought postcards. At the Hotel our room in the Treadway was ready so we moved from the Holiday Inn to room 121 in the Treadway which is by entrance door "A". We set up the plants in the salesroom for Fridays vendor opening. Our dinner tonight was prime rib with cheesecake and wine. We ate with Diane Richardson.

~

October 22, 2010 Show awards

The sales room opened today. Business is pretty slow. The show opened this afternoon but without the awards on the honors table. At 5 PM Sue Hoffmann, Libbie, Bob Clark and myself placed the ribbons. We then got cleaned up for dinner then came down for drinks and a salmon dinner. The show opened after dinner with the awards and everyone milling about. Nice.

~

October 24, 2010 drive

Got up at 6:30 and started packing our stuff. Left at 7:30 AM but swung by the Post Office on Lake St before leaving Owego. Had breakfast at Clarks Summit, PA where we also got gas. Lunch at Taco Bell in Fredericksburg, arrived home at 6:15. I went to Home Depot for a fluorescent light fixture to experiment with and then Panera's for dinner. I had French Onion Soup and a Mediterranean Veggie sandwich.

~

October 26, 2010 getting ready

This was run around and get the house clean day. I was pretty busy as well. Got a haircut, did the groceries. Could not get the controller card working. Dinner was Chicken Serenada from Trader Joes. Delicious.

~

October 27, 2010 fluorescents

Most of the day was spent measuring fluorescent tubes for new light stands. I picked up the Benzigers at 6:45. They were supposed to arrive at 5:50 but their flight was canceled. We went to La Cocina and had Margaritas and dinner. it was a nice evening.

~

October 28, 2010 Nasher day

John and I worked on microwaves all morning. He drilled the cases while I wired the controller cards. We did all 4 microwaves. The great news is the card he brought from Maine did not turn on the microwave. I found two of the connectors were installed reversed. Fixed that issue and now everything works as planned. Next we took a nice walk around the developments behind us, Seagroves and Vintage Grove. Got cleaned up and went to the Nasher. I was disappointed in the collection but the dinner there was memorable. I had Thai crab cakes and pumpkin soup. We shared a bottle of Chardonnay. Got home at 9:30. Interestingly as we left the Nasher they were setting up for a student party with fancy hors d'oeuvres and cookies and drinks.

~

October 29, 2010 wiring

Finished wiring the microwaves then took a trip to Lowes and picked up some missing screws and fluorescent fixtures. After a nice lunch of BLT, we went to Jerrys to get paints for Mary who is starting an acrylic class. Our next stop was the art museum where we did the sculpture walk including a walk across the beltline bridge. Left there almost at dark. There was a traffic jam on the beltline so we did some evasive behavior and took Buck Jones to BJ's to buy salmon and milk. Our salmon dinner with sweet potatoes and peas was delicious.

~

October 30, 2010 NCMA, Ballet

Tonight we went to the Ballet with Mary and John. We saw Dracula and Red Mask. Attended the pre performance with the composer which was quite good. The guy is very dynamic and I learned a lot. We had box seats which had a limited view but nice nonetheless. In the afternoon we went in to the NC Museum of Art. We had a very nice lunch in the Iris cafe. I had a delicious chicken salad sandwich. Yesterday we did the sculpture walk, today was a visit to the inside. The galleries sure are nice.

~

October 31, 2010 Duke Gardens

Picked up the paper this morning. Mary came with me and picked up some cheese, Fritos and other misc to go with the egg omelets she made. They were excellent. Yummy. We went to Duke Gardens and walked the formal gardens. The reciprocal membership parking pass worked fine. We got an all day pass. Dinner was several of Libbie's good pizzas she made from scratch today.

~

November 01, 2010 Benzigers leave

Everyone was up early. Took the Benzigers and the 4 microwaves to the airport this morning leaving the house at 7:15. They are flying US Airways. Heard later that their flight was uneventful. Dinner was pasta from Trader Joes.

~

November 02, 2010 packing

This was an easy day. I dug a hole in the backyard and replaced the fence post the tree fell on. I also moved a bunch of the maple logs to the brush pile by the power transformer. Still have many more to do. Stuart was supposed to pick the tree up but this doesn't look like it's going to happen any time soon. I was a little late checking us into the flight tomorrow so we have B tickets. Dinner was salmon and butternut

squash. Listened to Don Pasquale live from the Met this evening and also packed for the trip tomorrow. We have to go to the greenhouse tomorrow morning because it's supposed to get cold this coming weekend and I want to be sure we are OK.

~

November 03, 2010 Flying

Went to the greenhouse this morning and put up the Fanjet tube in house 2 before we leave for TX. Temps are predicted for below freezing this Friday and Saturday and we wanted a backup solution. This heater is on the white thermostat on the thermostat bank. It's a cloudy rainy day. We left for the airport at 12:45 for our 2:50 flight, dropping the car at the relax and park. The flight was uneventful but cloudy all the way. It was a little bumpy into and out of our stop in Nashville and also very windy going into San Antonio. Our car is a Kia which seems to be OK. They can't start our 3 day coupon until tomorrow at noon so we will have two contracts. One for today and then we switch to the free 3 day rental. Got into Kerrville at around 8 and had a pasta buffet at the hotel. It was over the top outstanding for only 7.95 each including desert and coffee.

~

November 04, 2010 San Antonio

We had the breakfast buffet at the hotel which was outstanding. We got off to a late start after breakfast. We met Anne and Richard then spent some time talking with everyone before eventually getting in the car for San Antonio. We had to turn around when we got to Comfort, about 20 miles away when we discovered we forgot the Hertz coupon to switch our rental car to the free coupon. Finally got to downtown San Antonio around 1:15 and bought Imax tickets and switched the car contract at the Hertz desk in the Marriott. We next went to the other end of the Riverview Mall and watched the Imax movie about the battle and downfall of the Alamo. One hundred fifty men tried defending the fortress against a Mexican force of thousands. The lost but this galvanized the army of Sam Houston and the battle cry of "remember the Alamo" as they ultimately marched to victory in the republic of Texas. After the movie we walked the river and were appropriately wowed. I never expected this much on the river walk. It was great. We had an early dinner at Boudros then took a narrated barge tour before going back to our car for the drive to Kerrville. We had a tiring but fulfilling day doing tourist activities and enjoying San Antonio.

~

November 05, 2010 Show

We had a nice breakfast buffet at the hotel. We stuck to the continental side of the buffet. I had oatmeal and a bagel. After breakfast we went to the meeting for judges and clerks. I enjoyed clerking with Kathy Bell as the team leader. I learned a lot. After it was done I went back to catch up on blogging, etc. We had the lunch buffet at the hotel. I had clam chowder and beef brisket. Wonderful but too much food. I even had desert in the form of cheesecake and peanut butter pie. Everything is made on premises. This is an unbelievable place. Our next adventure was the Western Art Museum, a nice facility on a hill. We paid the \$6 admission each and wandered about the 4 galleries of Western Art. Most of it was by contemporary painters hung on the four walls of the room with a few sculptures in the center. It was enjoyable Western art, too many horses but good quality paintings although I'm not much of an expert. I think I may want to sculpt a cowboy someday after I do some dance sculptures. We stopped by Walmart on the way back since Libbie needed tape for her plants to carry home. I had a nice chat with Hortense in Ken's booth of Hill country Violets. We decided to do the seafood buffet. It was great. I had shrimp, seafood wellington, parmesan crusted Tilapia and popcorn shrimp with hush puppies. Desert was Italian wedding cake and also a piece of lemon cake.

~

November 06, 2010 birthday

We got up early. I redid some of the photography after breakfast. My results were much better this time. I went to the Andrea presentation and also Dale's Strep show. Both were excellent. I was not going to go but ended up having the lunch buffet with the Nicholas's and Dale. I had beef brisket and lemon pie for desert. We went across the street for baggies then went to the banquet. It was enjoyable. We sat with Ken of Hill Country and Bill Foster. I was the birthday boy and the group sang Happy Birthday to me as well as giving me a signed card. After the banquet I spoke with Andrea about the blog. Nobody had talked to her yet about it so she awarded me the prize of first person at Lonestar to say they read the blog. I won a sucker plucker.

~

November 07, 2010 Fly home

We got up at 3:45 AM San Antonio Eastern Time (we set the clock back one hour). After settling our bill with the hotel we got off on the highway at around 4:15 which was great! It was a chilly morning but we made great time down I-10 to San Antonio. Got gas at the Anderson loop which connects to the airport. Our rental car went 340 miles on 11.xx gals for a calculated 29 mpg. We took a road with lots of lights to the airport then couldn't find the rental return since the signs were not marked clearly and GPS didn't help. Eventually returned the car and had smooth flights to Baltimore and Raleigh. We had a McDonald's breakfast in San Antonio airport and a Quizno's sub in Baltimore. I wore my sweatshirt and ended up getting a pat down for the sweatshirt. There was more controversy, a lot more serious, when we found we didn't have our suitcase with my computer, camera and Libbie's violet purchases. someone took the wrong black bag off the parking lot shuttle. We called the number on his luggage tag and eventually got hold of him. He returned to the parking lot with our suitcase. We got home at around 3 PM. Stuart and Duncan were at our house looking at the firewood. I picked up skim milk at Krogers and Libbie made her pizza which was very nice. This evening after dinner I ordered the other 4 AP PC boards. I'm not happy that Sirius charged my card for the trial account after I canceled it Oct 20.

~

November 08, 2010 Credit Card Hell

I visited the eye doctor at 9 this morning. He wants to redo the optic nerve test. I have an appointment but will cancel it since I don't think it was done correctly the first time. I spent lots of time on the phone with Sirius trying to get my credit card credited with \$14 for the internet service that I canceled. Next I bought an Atom barebones from Newegg for \$299 and it was declined by FIA services. Spent a lot of time on the phone with them and they said they were going to shut the card down because of a faulty attempt by classmates.com. I looked through my receipts and found a purchase Oct 26 of Gold membership using Shopsyafe. The tried to auto renew but it was declined due to bad expiration date. Good for that but it caused security concerns. Finally got that straightened out. Libbie brought the huge pile of mail and it was more bad news. My PSA went up to 0.49. I may get this diagnosed along with the enlarged prostate. What next? Libbie made chili for dinner. This was the meat, tomato and beans we bought for chili for when the Benzigers visited but we didn't use.

~

November 09, 2010 TAVS Meeting

Did a quick supermarket run and bought all the fruit cake ingredients. My supermarket bill hit a high of \$84. Wow. I got enough gas points for a tank of gas in one trip. They didn't have the raisins and figs for the fruit cake. I also skipped the Pecans because Libbie said we could get those at the Farmers market. Came home and started the oven for the chocolate chip cookies. I put both boxes of Trader Joes cookies on the tray and they ended up running together. I ended up with a chocolate chip sheet cake. I also bought water. Brought juice, cups, water, napkins and cookies to the greenhouse for the TAVS meeting. I stayed for the business part of the meeting and left when the workshop was going to start. I have much to do today. Dinner was chili with cornbread.

~

November 10, 2010 PC Cards, Farmers Market

The 4 PC cards arrived FedEx this morning. I tried putting the larger 1210 470 ohm resistors on and had ample room. I may reduce the 1210 footprint in the future since it's more than needed. I also put the buzzer driver transistor on the card. This card has a 485 transceiver correctly controlled with unused lines turning the drivers and receivers on and off separately. The issue is the TX/RX is shared with keypad lines so they must be disabled to use the keypad. I found my way around the Zookbinder ordering software and ordered the 3 test prints required by their process. After lunch Libbie and I went to the Farmers market and picked up beets, potatoes, squash, apples, pecans and bread.

The Pecans were 3 1/2 pounds of shelled nuts for .44 per pound. I compared this later to Krogers where the shelled pecans were \$7 for 12 ounces which worked out to .58 an ounce. Listened to Don Pasquale on Sirius tonight. James Levine had to stop conducting before the end. Margaret and Will bided some time then an announcement came from the stage that there would be a replacement conductor. The LA times the next day announced this but with no reason given. While all this was going on I worked on Laura's wedding album. I'm within a few pages of completion. Dinner tonight was beanburger with onion and tomato. Libbie baked potato and beets to go with it.

~

November 11, 2010 research

I finished a first pass of Laura's album today and sent it to her and Anne. Talked to Anne as she was driving to a hotel candidate for Lonestar next year. Went to Home Depot to research materials for the light

stands. Luan plywood covered with vinyl sheet goods looks pretty good as a candidate. Next I went to Just Tire where I bought my tires in December 2009 and made an appointment for tomorrow to get them balanced. Dinner was rotisserie chicken from Krogers with potato and beets roasted in the oven. Delicious. Did a little touch up on the album after dinner while listening to Sirius Tosca with Shirley Verett and Luciano Pavarotti. In the evening Libbie and I loaded the trailer in the garage with old TV's for recycling day tomorrow at Rex Healthcare. I left my car outside. The console TV in the playroom was a challenge to get down the stairs. It was easier getting the 31 inch TV down from the attic.

~

November 12, 2010 light shelves

I had a 10 AM appointment this morning for tire balancing. I found out that tire rotation and balancing was free at Just Tires because I bought my tires there. They balanced the wheels but i requested no rotation because i did that yesterday. The car seems to ride smoother. Received some of the MAAVS photos from Ann-Marie. Now I need to figure out the menu's for the Owego convention. Looked at re-arranging the bookshelves in the playroom for light shelves. I'm going to out them into a corner of my workshop that currently is not used. Dinner tonight was salmon and beets and potatoes. Very good. We also had white wine with dinner.

~

November 13, 2010 Don Pasquale

Short day today. At 8 AM we took the trailer loaded with old TV's, computers and microwave and took it to the Rex Healthcare recycling day. A small army of workers unloaded our trailer in no time which was nice. Libbie came with me since she thought we would both be unloading but didn't have to. Worked on putting down parts on the controller cards this morning and a little on the wedding album. I also got my Atom based PC working in the shop streaming wirelessly from Traviata. Not bad. I measured 21 watts. We left for the opera at 11:30. It's a beautiful day. There was a line outside the doors since they weren't open yet but it was nice standing out in the beautiful weather. The North Hills Farmers Market was breaking down when we arrived. They seem to have shopping center supplied tents and tables which looks like it works out OK for the vendors. We loved the performance. Such delightful and lively music. Anna can really sing but I also enjoyed the acting and singing of Pasquale. Our next opera is Don Carlo. On the way

home we stopped at BJ's and got ribs and another pair of jeans. I had to pay \$45 for membership renewal. Ouch. Not sure if this is worth it but I'm going for another year. Dinner was ribs, butternut squash and Shiraz.

~

November 14, 2010 pansies

Early morning pick up a newspaper at McDonalds. After the paper I went to the greenhouse at 11 and planted the flat of pansies. I was hoping to have some left over for home flower boxes but used them all. After a lunch of chicken salad with cranberries and mandarin oranges we went to the Farmers market and picked up 2 six packs of pansies and some veggies. Earlier today I soldered 82 capacitors onto the 4 PCB controller cards. This evening i soldered the first AVR chip and screwed it up. I did not orient pin 1 on the correct pin. will have to use a heat gun to remove it. Libbie made her usual great pizza and also started her fruit cakes. On the way back from the Farmers Market this afternoon we stopped into Krogers and got the eggs, butter and flour to round out the ingredients. Libbie discovered that I didn't get the pineapple when i picked up the ingredients this week. I made a separate trip and got the pineapples, multicolored! Finished the Nicholas Sparks book tonight, Safe Haven. It was OK although I'm not into ghosts and spirits.

~

November 15, 2010 albums

Worked at trying to get the album finished for Laura. She's away this weekend but I want to finish this before we go to Florida. Dinner was beanburger. Watched Dancing With the stars a little bit tonight but I have so much to do with the album, controller cards and MAAVS website I didn't pay much attention.

~

November 16, 2010 groceries

Did the groceries as usual today including a trip to Trader Joes. It's a rainy day but Libbie put out the overly full garbage cans. Continued to work on the shop. Bought a shelf for the audio system to be mounted on the wall. The Zookbook test prints came by FedEx today. all looks good to go. Dinner was Trader Joe's pasta.

~

November 17, 2010 fraud

Took the bench out of the shop and plastered the wall. Bought some plaster materials at Lowes. Received a strange phone call from FIA Security about my credit card. It had a \$2,000 charge for jewelry in the UK. They shut down the card and said they would FedEx a new one out to me Friday. I have to sign for it. Dinner was Bean burger with potato and beets baked in the Oven. Spoke with Anne earlier today. She's going to Wichita for Laura's birthday.

~

November 18, 2010 Sirius

I sanded the new plaster in the shop and put another coat on. Next job was to install the Sirius radio in the Corolla. All went well with threading the antenna, soldering the power into the power system and routing the audio wire. Tested it out and didn't like the interference with my knee so I raised the radio a little. Raked the driveway with Libbie. It's a nice day out. Returned the unused plaster to Lowes and then went out to dinner with Libbie to La Cocina. I used a \$79 prepaid debit card I received from Sears as a rebate of the delivery charge for our Washing machine. I enjoyed listening to Don Pasquale live from the met on sirius but I had to turn it off at 1:30 since it was late and I was tired.

~

November 19, 2010 depressing

Laura wanted some changes to the album. The ovals with her and the picture with her grandmother were different sizes, she wanted them the same. It was a huge effort but I got it done. The new Credit Card came. After a BLT lunch I went to Crossroads and bought an antenna at Best Buy and a doorbell button at Home Depot. installed the button, it's lighted. Wow! Called Zookbinder and got my account changed to (I hope) the new credit card. The bad news of the day is Libbie got a call from Sue. She and her deadbeat husband are going to join us for New Years in Sarasota. What a depressing disaster. New Years is always fun with the party, the Rose Parade and finally the concert at Van Wezel not to mention the Audobon stuff in Venice and the landfill. With the Clampets visiting it's going to look like a bleak weekend. I'm really

depressed. I need to escape this crap.

~

November 20, 2010 travel

This is our travel day to Sarasota. Got up early, had breakfast and out the door at 7:08 AM. The trip was uneventful, traffic was not bad. Stopped at Kingsland, Georgia and had a Wendy's Baja salad then got gas across the street for 2.67. The Wendy's Baja was excellent. I would do it again. It basically was a green salad with chili over the top and bits of cheese and a pack of Nacho strips. All was going well until we reached Lake Mary just before Orlando. We crept and crawled through Orlando until Sand Lake Rd where the traffic suddenly started moving at 70 again. We got into Sarasota later than usual, around 6:15 PM. It was dark already. We unloaded the suitcases and food, got cleaned up then went to the club for dinner. They had a special dinner menu in the grill. I had pasta with shrimp, scallops, crabmeat and swordfish. Libbie had crusted Tilapia. She also had the chocolate cake while I sipped a nice cup of coffee. It was a nice dinner out and we didn't have to go out.

~

November 21, 2010 Biking

I went out and picked up the Sunday paper from a machine on Honore. I did find the ad for the Black Friday sale at Van Wezel. Any performance is 50% off. Around 10 we went to the Venice looking for a bike rental. Found a beach rental shop downtown where we got a cruiser for Libbie for \$36 for the week. Got back at noon and got dressed for biking - water bottle, hat, etc. Went down to Laurel Rd and turned around. It was 14 miles round trip. Mile marker 900 is at Laurel Rd. and Mile Marker 894 is at our start on Central Sarasota Pkwy. After biking we went to Haverty's and bought two leather couches for \$2400. I was happy with the deal since it included 36 months free interest. Went to Publix to pick up some supplies then we went to lunch/dinner at the clubhouse. It was football Sunday, they have \$5 build your own tortillas but we ordered plated dinners. I had a Cuban with sweet potato fries and Libbie had the crabcake sandwich. Both were really good. We had two glasses of Mondavi Cabernet each. It was Happy hour so the drinks are 4.50 instead of \$6. Very nice but I was totally inebriated. No food, lots of alcohol until we then had food. After dinner we relaxed (fell asleep) and watched 60 Minutes then Undercover Boss. Undercover Boss was about the head of marketing for Subway going undercover.

~

November 22, 2010 Sarasota Grand tour

This morning we went to Havertys to find what to do with the old sofa. Habitat couldn't take them. After a few calls we got the Salvation Army to take the furniture tomorrow. Good deal. The refrigerator is supposed to come tomorrow. We then went to Selby for a walk through the houses and gardens. The Woman's art guild was having an art show in the mansion. It was mostly watercolors by woman painters but it was very good. We had lunch there in the cafe. We split a turkey cranberry sandwich. Our next stop was the Ringling because it's Monday and the Ringling is free on Monday. We both were tired but latched onto a docent led tour of the Rubens and painters of the early centuries. It was educational. Went home after this and had dinner in the clubhouse. The menu was very limited burgers and sandwiches. It was not very crowded. We left there at 7:30 and went to Publix for Moose Tracks Ice Cream. I like the raspberry better.

~

November 23, 2010 Busy

This was a busy day. I went over to the board meeting at 9 AM. The bottom line is we don't have enough reserve to replace the roof. Will raise the quarterly about \$20 to address this issue. The Salvation Army came around 11 AM after I talked to Anne about the price of the album and some details for the story I'm writing about her. Next the new refrigerator arrived. The old one started to leak water all over the floor. It was nice to get rid of that thing although the filtered water will be missed. We took a bike ride North on the Legacy trail. Probably did a total of 5 miles today. Next order of business after doing some writing was to go to Target for shopping. We needed some rugs and an ironing board cover. We then went straight over to Siesta Beach for the Sunset. There still were a fair amount of bikini's around. My favorite was a young mother in the surf with her little girl. She looked young and what an incredible body in her light blue bikini. After the beach we found the Thai place I googled. It's called Bangkok at the corner of Swift and Proctor. Very nice decor. The ladies were very thin and elegantly dressed. We had an appetizer sampler then I had hot Pad Thai beef. Libbie had mild chicken pad thai. Both were excellent. It was happy hour so we had a house Shiraz for 3.50. total bill was \$51 including 18% tip. It was incredibly nice. Came back to the condo and the refrigerator is now off meaning it reached operating temperature.

~

November 24, 2010 Furniture

This morning I got up early, before 6 AM. The Haverty furniture truck came on time at 8:30 as per the plan. The love seat fit on the elevator but the big sofa would not fit so they carried it up the stairs. It's pretty heavy. The furniture looks great, the old sofa was in pretty bad shape. It was badly stained and had a torn base under the cushions. Some of the cushions were irretrievably stained underneath with large brown stains. After the furniture we watched the Dancing with the Stars finalists on GMA. Jennifer Gray won last night and was in NY this morning doing a demo dance with Derek Hough, her partner. We took the long ride today to Venice and back. We had an Apple at the train station in Venice. It was a 20 mile ride!!! For dinner tonight we went over to the club for Pub night. It was pretty full. I had the Salmon with two glasses of wine.

~

November 25, 2010 Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving. The paper was 1.50 and I didn't have enough quarters so I went to Dunkin Donuts and also picked up 4 donuts. Afterward we went for a bike ride through all the neighborhoods in the other side of Stoneybrook. At 4:30 we went for the Thanksgiving dinner. I had turkey and prime rib with potatoes, gravy nad 3 pies for desert. The pies were cocunut creme, chocolate tropical and pumpkin cheesecake.

~

November 26, 2010 Black Friday

I chose not to get Jan 1 theater tickets. I'm not going to Sarasota for New Years. I refuse to watch any football that day and would feel bad if they didn't watch it because I was there so my solution is to not go. I submitted a Kodak album for the Black Friday special and also bought an Onkyo Receiver which was a good price but not a Black Friday special. Our old receiver is dead. Took a short neighborhood bike ride then put the bike in the car and returned it to Venice. After Venice we went to the beach to watch the sunset. They were all Families with no bikinis. Disappointment but I enjoyed the sunset. Went to the club for Osso Bucco which to me was like a chuck steak stew with veggies. It was very tender and good. I finished the meal with a Canolli and berry sauce. Wow, was that good.

~

November 27, 2010 home

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November 28, 2010 drive home

Woke up at 5 but didn't get out of bed until 6. We're at the comfort Suites on Rt 17 in Richmond Hill, exit 87 of I-95 just south of Savannah. Had the hotel breakfast which was just cereal and hard boiled eggs. I had the waffle which I didn't like and also a plain refrigerated bagel with cream cheese. We tried to get going at 7 but the car was frosted over. Libbie used a credit card to scrape the windows and we waited 5 minutes with the motor running to get some visibility. within 10 minutes of cruising down I-95 everything cleared. Traffic was heavy. One McDonald's we stopped at was so busy there were lines for food at 8 AM. We went another half hour down the road and got coffee in McDonald's and topped off the tank at 2.71. Made it home by 12:30. Hard to believe but there were also lines of trucks on I-95 which clogged up the traffic as well. Libbie decided to ask Sue and Bruce not to come on New Years. This is good and bad. I'm glad they're not coming to watch football. I really don't want to see Bruce at all anyway.

~

November 29, 2010 Sarasota taxes

Went to Scottrade with my IRA withdrawal form prepared. I may be able to get away with no withholding. This afternoon the money was in the account so I took a check and went to the Credit Union and deposited 1100.00 This was the amount I used from the personal checking to cover some of the Sarasota tax bill. The rest came from savings which contained the microwave project money. I paid the Sarasota tax bill online today debiting the amount from the checking account. Lots of juggling of funds to get all this done. Dinner was chicken tenders and veggies. Very good. Libbie is trying to get us to eat less. She also called Sue and called off the New Years invite. Thank you Libbie, it is really appreciated.

~

November 30, 2010 tax day

I spent some time online with stocks. My purchase of EPD in the IRA and BAC-W in personal accounts both executed this morning. In the meantime, I need to use the money in Scott from the IRA to pay taxes and credit card bill. Lots of juggling. Went to Trader Joes and Kroger's today then came home surfed some websites. Paid the property taxes this afternoon using routing numbers to my Scottrade personal account. Lets see if this works. Dinner tonight was pasta in Marinara sauce. It's been a while.

~

December 01, 2010 onkyo & bad speakers

I went to Tiger Direct today and looked at laptops. Nothing grabbed me. Bought a case for my 1T porno drive. Best Buy had a Dell for 399 which is the same as mine except it only has 2 gigs of memory. I went home and then back to Best Buy with Libbie to buy the thing. I spent several hours setting it up. Win 7 doesn't network well for file sharing. It takes a few tricks to get to the goal. The new Onkyo came while fooling with the computer. The old Onkyo doesn't appear to be bad, it was the speakers which have crumbling woofers. I'll get the Cerwin's from upstairs and swap them for down. Tried the Sirius boombox with the antenna laying on the floor in the porch. It works. We listened to Don Pasquale tonight.

~

December 02, 2010 Confused

I'm getting confused spending IRA money for taxes. My spending so far: 2173.40 to Wake from Scott, 3256.40 to Wake from Scott, 936.34 to FIA from Scott, \$1100 to CU from Scott. In addition, I purchased 200 shares of BAC-W on Scott for 4877. Total Scott spending = 11406.80. On the CU I took 1030 from savings for total deposits of 2130 which includes the previously mentioned 1100 from Scott. I spent 2374.33 on Sarasota taxes from CU. Transferred 1500 of pension from CU to FIA. Total FIA payments so far = 936.34 + 1500 = 2436.34 Still need 1000 to FIA for payoff. Today I went online to figure all this out. For Scott the IRA deposit was 12000, 2 divvys of 546.88 and 241.67, spending of 11406. Net is 1382 left. The Kodak album came today. Not bad, lesser than photo quality. Some pics are chopped at the edge. Dinner was bean burger and salad.

~

December 03, 2010 run around

This is First Friday but we chose not to go out tonight. Went to Home Depot for trim paint, white. On the way home stopped at Goodwill with extra bedding then the Credit union for Libbie. It's cold today. I'm not used to this. Tried all day to get Gallery 3 running and/or a new version of Uniform Server. My old version uses Apache 2.0, I need to upgrade to Apache 2.2

Dinner was Salmon with broccoli and steam fresh green beans and Shiraz.

~

December 04, 2010 Gallery

Finally got Gallery 3 running on a new version of Uniform Server on my desktop. The problem is that the extract program needs to find the real target drive since it hard codes the drive in the conf file. It's starting to snow today when we went to Fresh market to forage for food. We got chicken, squash and sourdough baguette. stopped at Foodlion and cleaned them out of Progresso 10/\$1 soup. Libbie got 10 cans earlier and we bought 8 more which is all they had. Dinner was BBQ chicken, Chardonnay, butternut squash. For desert I had a thawed Canolli. I tried unpacking a new Uniform Server on Traviata and had success. I also successfully moved all my apps to the new server, including this one. It did snow this evening, we got dusted on the grassy areas. The ground is too warm to stick there.

~

December 05, 2010 paint

After reading the paper this morning I configured Gallery 3 on the new server software. Started loading a few albums and a black theme. I like it. Next up was painting. Started with ceiling white but eventually found the correct white and painted the area behind where the shelves will be located. When done Libbie took our Sourdough baguette and sliced it like a Hoagy bun and put the BBQ chicken leftovers on with BBQ sauce. I found a movie on Usenet called Ghost Hunters, Amaragosa Opera House. It was terrible and laughable but I enjoyed the background photos of Death Valley Junction. Libbie made her outstanding pizza once again this evening. She's really good at this. Gallery 3 keeps crashing PHP when loading some albums all at once.

~

December 06, 2010 Dentist, xmas lights, cold

Dentist appt this morning at 8:30. All went well. Talked to Dr Paul about Christmas lights. He sat down and chatted for a while about Disney lights and the back stage tour. He said he and his wife spend 10 days putting all their lights up, the boys then come over and wire everything together. He also mentioned Judy Howells huge house and the lighting

on Olive Chapel. After the dentist I went to Jerry's for notecards and then Best Buy for an infocast. I like the infocast screen very much. My Chumby is due today as well. In the PM Libbie and I took a light tour of the Howells and then up to Dr Beavers on High House Rd. Next stop was La Cocina where we had a couple of Margaritas and Quasadilla L Cocina. It was cold and the greenhouse was reporting 52 so we went over to check it out. Inflation was low and the Fan Jet belt was thin. I decided to replace the belt which involved a trip home to get the belt and tools. I'll deal with inflation issues tomorrow. The belt was cracked and would likely not have made it through the night. The Walgreens prints I submitted today were a mixed bag. The Violets seem dark to me. The family picture came out OK. Temps are predicted to be 19 tonight but I think we got the heating situation under control.

~

December 07, 2010 chumby

Did the grocery run this morning. Picked up food for making the turkey this weekend and also the ingredients for my peanut butter bacon truffles. Libbie wanted insulation for the greenhouse to shed gap. I went to Lowes and picked up a couple of pipe insulation tubes that I tried then went back to Home Depot and got a bunch more only cheaper because they didn't have a glue strip. I worked with the Chumby today, learning the apps and strategy. Got the bill for Stoneybrook today. \$521 . I was initially shocked but then found it included the \$162 Palmer Ranch payment. Next month the Stoneybrook streets bill will come. Our food minimum is down to \$95 remaining. It's very cold out - overnight was 19, high for the day was only 36. They are stripping the trees from our neighbors lot across the street. I hope they don't clear cut. Dinner was pasta. After dinner we listened to the Met on Sirius broadcast of Don Carlo. We see Don Carlo this Saturday on HD.

~

December 08, 2010 bookshelves

Went to the greenhouse and met Christine, our handicapped person. While there I stuffed the pipe insulation between the building and the greenhouse gutter. It's another cold day, it went down to 19 overnight. Moved the bookshelves from the playroom into the workshop. this job went well but I created quite a pile of throw away books. A lot of them were old travel books and pictorial books. Much stuff, not touched very much. If I haven't looked at it in the past 10 years it was time to pitch it out. I studied the Chumby literature somewhat trying to

make the photoframe work. No luck so far. Dinner was Briyani. We listened to Boheme tonight live from the met on Sirius.

~

December 09, 2010 more bookshelves

Emptied some more of the bookshelves today. Did the first coat of spackle. Went to Graingers for fan belts. Stopped by Tiger direct for blank CD's. It's hard buying something there. Burned a Xmas CD for Libbie. Dinner was sausage, onions and pepper casserole from TJ's. It was yummy.

~

December 10, 2010 turkey dinner

worked on streaming for Manon to the Atom machine which I'm calling Cosi. I also did some Norton scans and cleanup of the machine. Dinner was a turkey that Libbie cooked with all the trimmings. We had it with Shiraz. The Kodak album came today for the Nicholas's. It's not bad but certainly not a professional photo album. I put a coat of spackle on the wall in the playroom where the shelves used to be. We went to the library as well today. Libbie had a reserved book to pick up, I found a new author on the new release shelf.

~

December 11, 2010 Don Carlo

Worked on getting VB6 to run on Windows 7. No luck. Left at 11:00 for a 12:30 Met HD performance of Don Carlo. Loved it. It was quite long on a cold rainy miserable day. We drove to North Hills for the opera. There was some awful fantom.com preshow which was pure noise. Libbie fixed our turkey again for dinner. We had Butternut squash, cranberry, stuffing and Shiraz for dinner.

~

December 12, 2010 Tree lights

Downloaded Visual Studio 2010 Express to rewrite Great Violets and also for my Chumby project. No newspaper today. After the morning shows I started making the truffle cookies with peanut butter and bacon. The

cookies came OK. The bacon was not crisp enough but all else went well. It's not bad out today, temp in the 40's. We did the tree lights today and Libbie decorated the downstairs. I'm overly full of cookies and candy. Libbie made her homemade pizza from scratch which was excellent as usual.

~

December 13, 2010 credit

I called Haverty's and then called Citibank about my bill. I have not received one to date. They had the wrong address which is what I suspected. I'm getting to dislike Citibank very much. I had a hard time understanding the foreigner I was talking to. He said I will get new billing info. I'm making good headway with visual Studio. so far I like what I see. I really need more reading material covering XML functions built into the Visual Studio product. Lots of comments about Libbie's Lemon Squares on Facebook. I brought the garbage cans to the street loaded with our discarded books from upstairs. Hopefully they will take them tomorrow despite the weight. Dinner was leftover squash, cranberry and turkey on sandwiches. Very nice.

~

December 14, 2010 TAVS party

Did a quick grocery run then at 11:30 we left for JoAnn Raymer's house for the party. Very nice little Christmas party. JoAnn's house is nicely decorated. It's a very cold day. For dinner I went back to Krogers and bought pasta. I had a coupon but I left it home. They said if I bring it back to the service desk I'll get the dollar for the coupon.

~

December 15, 2010 LED

I worked a little more on the Studio 2008 VB program doing the tutorial i printed from the book. Went to Home Depot to look at heatilators and ended up buying a new LED spotlight over the garbage can. I'm happy with how bright it is. Libbie and I went out after dark and evaluated it. It's only 7 watts but very bright. I like it. This afternoon we went to the Rockwell exhibit at the NC Museum of Art. The large oil paintings that were used for the Saturday Evening Post covers were pretty interesting. I enjoyed seeing them close up. A few surprises were that the black and white pics were actually painted with shades of

black, gray and white paint. The art critic painting actually had large lumps of oil paint on the pallet of the guy in the pic. The civil rights painting had large oil paint blobs for the fruit thrown at the little girl. We met the Tully's in the museum. Traffic coming home was very heavy, stop and go but it was 5 PM in the afternoon. I fell asleep in the chair at home while surfing the web.

Dinner was turkey
pieces over toast with gravy.

~

December 16, 2010 snow and XML

We woke to a white dusting on everything including the road surfaces which are too cold for melting. The snow eventually changed over to freezing rain before all rain. Some of the trees bent over under the freezing rain, especially the skinny pines down the driveway. Libbie had a doctors appointment but it was postponed due to slippery roads. I spent almost the whole day working on XML databases and am pretty happy with the results. Dinner was turkey vegetable soup.

~

December 17, 2010 Black Swan

Spoke with Citibank again today since the furniture statement still had not come. This is like speaking with Peggy in the commercials. I got nowhere. She said the statement was mailed the 13th. I had lots of luck running the XML sample from the VB 2010 book today. We left for the theater at 4:50. We're going to see Black Swan which opens today in theaters everywhere. After the very intense movie we went to Lonestar Steakhouse in the same parking lot. I had half rack of ribs, baked potato, salad and 2 glasses of Malbec wine. The service was outstanding and the food was good. We will return.

~

December 18, 2010 Don Carlo

This was a busy day. I went to Home Depot to get a plaster knife. I can't find mine but I think I gave it to Joe for his spackle job. I got a nice 4 inch knife with a taper on the tip for \$7. I also bought more lights for under the counter. Put another coat on the seam on the outside wall in the playroom with the new knife. Started installing the under the counter light over the breadmaker. This meant taking all

the glasses out of the cabinet. We ended up throwing out quite a few glasses that we no longer use, or never use such as my whiskey sour glasses from my apartment 40 years ago! Next I went upstairs and started rolling the wall along the stairs where the bookcases used to be. Libbie had painted the edges and was now ready for the roller job. When done I went downstairs and finished the light installation. This involved soldering a track light power tap onto the lighting wire. Still need to put the cover back on. All of this work was done while Don Carlo was playing live from the Met. It was the first Saturday broadcast. We were pretty tired from working so we ordered Szechuan from the Chinese place next to Krogers. Libbie picked up the takeout while I went next door and got a bottle of Ravenwood Zinfandel. Lots of mail today. A box of postcards came from Rich Follett for the convention, my VB 2010 book from Amazon and a bunch of Christmas cards.

~

December 19, 2010 walk and website

Up late today, picked up the paper even later, 9 AM. Libbie started painting the trim upstairs but I worked on the MAAVS website. I got the AVSA 2010 section and the Williamsburg sections completed. Now it's time to turn towards the Fredericksburg 2008 data. This is going slow but forward. After lunch we went outside and took a walk around Seagrove out to 1010 and back through Surry. I need to map this to measure the mileage. 60 Minutes was good tonight. It's about people who can remember every day of their lives including actress Mary Lou Henner. I wish I had this gift. The people are otherwise normal. They showed us Mary Lou was super organized as well with a tour of her closet with dresses sorted by color and shoes turned so you could see both the toe and heel.

~

December 20, 2010 citi

The bill from Citi came today. I've been trying to get this from them since first payment is due Jan 4 and they sent the bill initially to the wrong address. This is for the Stoneybrook furniture. Dealing with them so far has not been fun. There doesn't seem to be an automatic payment option. Oh well, I'll use the CU bill pay service. Juggled some funds around and paid the bill. I also paid the condo maintenance and reserved some money for Joe and Christa's Christmas present. Cut some logs out in the yard and used the cart to move them to the brush pile. The cart needed air in the tires which were less than 10 psi. They require 40 psi.

~

December 21, 2010

Groceries at both Trader Joes and Krogers today. I started the genealogy project again. I saw a post on Wired about best open source genealogy software. When I didn't like the choices I fired up Family Tree Maker and dove in. Found quite a bit of detail on the Chmielewski side by piecing together searches, cemetery grave markers and notes. Worked a little in the woods on moving logs. This is good exercise and is cleaning the woods. Dinner was Briyani which was very good. Listened to Xmas carols on Sirius downstairs. Quiet evening. I also found the password for Libbie's IRA and made some changes to better put the money to work. I also started fine tuning my Roth to maximize income.

~

December 22, 2010 fish

Did a trip to Petsmart to get our water tested. It's high in ammonia. I calculated the pond at 268 gals when it's at 10 inches. We drained it this low starting out at 13 inches. This should be a 25% water change. We bought an ammonia test kit which is showing the ammonia is still way high. Need to work at this. Dinner was crab cakes and butternut squash.

~

December 23, 2010 cold

It's cold today. I went to Home Depot for the faucet for Sarasota. I also got ammonia reducer for the fish pond. We worked on getting the ammonia level down today. Dinner was creamed tuna and green peas over toast.

~

December 24, 2010 packing

The dishwasher drain hose leaked water all over the floor. We think it's a mouse. Two trips to Home Depot for a new hose and then an adapter to fit the hose to the drain. I cut the board for the silverware

drawer in Sarasota and got two coats of paint on it. Packed all our stuff for the trip tomorrow. Dinner was tuna steak, veggies and rice. The grocery store was a disaster today. I needed last minute fruit for the trip. The place was packed with last minute grocery shoppers.

~

December 25, 2010 Christmas day

Got up at 5:45 today and left the home by 6:30. The snow may be worse than forecast. Traffic was fairly light until Orlando. Naturally everything was closed and only half the gas stations were open. Had to stop in exit 193 in SC because the gas light came on. Most of the time I try to get to Florence. We paid 2.76 per gallon. Next stop was in GA at the GA/FL border. Gas there was 2.92. We had peanut butter sandwiches in the car after this stop. I bought a coke to have with my sandwich for lunch. The Lake Buena Vista exit had 2 lines of traffic which slowed the interstate down but once we were past there we got back up to 75 again. We arrived at the condo at 4:47 after buying a bottle of wine at 7-11 to have with our Christmas dinner. We had frozen chicken Serenada for dinner with the Yellow Tail shiraz.

~

December 26, 2010 snow

We awoke a little anxious this morning. it's snowing badly in Raleigh and we're down here. Jennifer reports that she has 12 inches of snow and it's still coming down and her power is out. Libbie checked with Nancy and she said there's only about 6 inches on her deck. Libbie was able to call the neighbors answer machine several times to ascertain that the power was indeed on. I need to fix the power and temperature reporting so that we know both variables. This is not rocket science!!!! We went to Publix for some Progresso soup for lunch. Also bought some frozen jambalaya for dinner, another bottle of Shiraz and a 750 ml bottle of rum from the liquor store for our eggnog. Took a walk around Stoneybrook. it was bitter. The temps are only in the 50's and the wind was blowing pretty hard.

~

December 27, 2010 Sarasota

Libbie heard from Jennifer at the greenhouse. All is well back there. After 7 inches of snow yesterday, Jennifer was able to get to the greenhouse.

She didn't drive down since she was afraid to get stuck but she reported all was well. There was some worry yesterday because it snowed yesterday and her power was out. We didn't know how things were. Temps inside were OK. We went South to the Venice rookery, saw some nesting Herons. Went to Racetrac to get gas at 3.04 per gal then went to Lowes looking for a new intake grill. the old one is rusted. Next stop was Yoders looking for fruit then JC Pennys for new pillows which were on sale. \$17 for 2 King pillows. Next stop was Whole Foods in downtown Sarasota. We saw a Dr Oz show about metabolism. He recommended GG Bran Scandinavian bread and Oolong tea. We bought both in whole Foods and met a couple searching for the same thing. We briefly chatted about Dr Oz and how we'll live to 100. When I got my Lobster Bisque seafood I met a very nice woman who was disappointed that the Chiopini soup was out. She said this happened to her yesterday. I liked her, she was fun to talk to. After our soup at whole food we walked through Selby. They were preparing for freezing temperatures tonight. We stopped to visit with Peter and Christa and had wine and cookies. Watched a nice sunset then went out to dinner. The Grill only had a limited sandwich menu so we went out to Bangock Thai on Swift. I had Pad Thai Beef. Before that we had an appetizer of Sataya which was chicken on skewers that we grilled over a flaming hibachi on the table. The waitress talked like a 10 year old girl and was very tiny. She was definitely Thai. Very nice.

~

December 28, 2010 productive

Wow, what a day. It started out very very cold (for Sarasota). It got down to 27. Our thermometer was showing 30. My first activity was to mix some epoxy and use the new bar clamp across the top of the refrigerator to attach the hook for the clock to the side of the refrigerator. It worked! The clock has stayed up all day. While the epoxy was setting I tackled the carbon filter under the sink. I also punched a one inch hole in the sink to mount the filtered water faucet. Got everything mounted and the filter working smoothly. Next task was to put the broken clock back together. It was in pieces from the last time it fell which was Thanksgiving. Took a trip to home Depot and bought an aluminum filter grill to replace the rusty one on the A/C input. The aluminum one was \$75, the steel was \$30. I bought the aluminum so that hopefully there won't be anymore rust. I had to cut one inch into the sides of the Sheetrock to change the filter size from 18x18 to 20x20. I'm very happy with how well it fit into the opening. There was a wood header at the top and bottom which allowed me to screw the new filter assembly into. The filter is solid and looks great. We went to the club and had dinner in the grill. It was pretty full but tables were available. I had a special, Tilapia with shrimp Rosetto. It was

very tasty. We had 2 glasses of house Cabernet each. When we got home there was a call from Lorraine. We're going to get together this Saturday after our New Year bash on Friday night. This will be fun.

~

December 29, 2010 walk

Watched the snow woes of the NorthEast on GMA then started reading about weather stations. I'm going to implement something in conjunction with my greenhouse monitor stuff. Lib and I walked to the front wetland area in Stoneybrook then came back, got in the car and went to Publix for some supplies. Came back and listened to Il Trovatore on Sirius satellite. Went at 6 PM to pub night. There were no tables so we waited in the lobby. A couple sitting at a table for 6 offered to share their table with us. We met them after dinner, they were nice. Names were Penny and Rich. They have lived here for 2 years and love it. For dinner I had a cajun seafood souffle which was shrimp and cray fish with rice. Very nice. We had 2 glasses each of house Cabernet. Came back and read some more about weather instruments.

~

December 30, 2010 cloudy

This morning we chose not to go to Disney World. The park was closed on Tuesday 2 hours after it opened because it reached capacity. We decided not to join the crowds. It's supposed to be in the 70's today although it's quite cloudy this morning.

We spent the whole day inside

reading. Took a little break in the PM by going to Comcast about the cable bill and then parked at Marina Jacks and walked around the bay front. Went to rib night at the clubhouse. We had a reservation in the dining room for ribs. Service was very nice, white table cloth dining.

I had the half rack with Shiraz, baked potato, salad and veggies.

Quite nice. Came home and read my book some more before going to bed at 9:15 PM.

~

December 31, 2010 stuffed, New Years party

Up early today at 6:15 AM. I feel quite stuffed from all the eating out that we've been doing. We did a ride South with stops at Tervis Tumbler, Venice Rookery, Walmart, Target and Publix. I had never been in

Tervis Tumbler, very expensive plastic glasses that I don't care for. We walked all around the lake at the rookery. They cleared all the Brazilian peppers all the way around. We enjoyed the pairs of nesting birds. looked at Pots and Pans in both Walmart and Target because the ones in the condo are scratched and in bad shape, especially the 2 quart sauce pan. We saw a few possibilities. I think I may go with ordinary stainless without the non stick coating. Picked up cereal, OJ and soup at Publix before getting back to reading. finished the Claire Cook book, "7 year switch". Nice "what will I do with the rest of my life" book. We showered and left for the club just before 7 for cocktails and hors d'oeuvre. We had cheese and hand pass with 2 glasses each of Sauvignon Blanc before switching to Cabernet for dinner. Dinner was sea bass and fillet. We joined Peter and Christa's friends, Tony and Siggy, Heidi and Hans, Hurda and ?. It's a nice group of mostly Europeans except for Heidi who is from Vermont. Heidi and Hans are from MA, Hurda is from Canada and Tony-Siggy are Germans. At midnight the husband-wife band had a countdown, we toasted and kissed then they played one last song that sounded like a Polka and they said good night everyone. we were back home by 12:08. Amazing and fun night.

~