

January 01, 2013 Parade Day

We had an early breakfast at 4:45 then the bus left at 6:15. As we approached the parade area, the freeway was jammed up. Our driver was good and threaded her way through Pasadena to the parking lot. Our seats were excellent. We had front row bleacher seats for the parade which were outstanding. After the parade we walked Colorado taking in the Jesus freaks, the Occupy movement and the parade of tow trucks which were not needed. Only one float was broken down and needed a tow. We patiently waited for our bus to get out of the lot since we had to wait for the buses behind us to leave. After an hour we got going too. The freeway of course was also very crowded. Once back at the hotel we were served soup and salad which was nice. I took an hour nap in the afternoon which was refreshing. Dinner on New Years day was salmon with veggies and a fruit cup dessert.

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January 02, 2013 Post Parade

We were at breakfast at 4:45 this morning. We had scrambled eggs, potatoes, sausage and toast. Libbie and I packed our suitcases and brought them down for the bus. The driver for our bus was a little late but still before the 6:15 takeoff time. It's a bright sunny morning but definitely crisp and cold. At the post parade we had to wait in line for about 20 minutes until the gates opened at 7:30. Seeing the finished floats up close was a real treat. There is so much detail that is missed when they go by but you really do need both experiences to see. At about quarter to ten we heard from Joe and Christa. They met the bus and took our suitcases. Fortunately, Christa was able to find parking on the nearest side street, Riviera. We had to pay the \$10 admission again to do the floats with Joe and Christa for a total of \$40. After getting totally exhausted walking approx 7 miles we headed back. Stopped for sandwiches at Secret Spot in Sunset Beach. Libbie and I split a turkey, Swiss and avocado sandwich. Once back at Joe and Christa's I fell asleep for a one hour nap. In the evening we went out to dinner to La Capelia, the place we had the rehearsal dinner at 4 years ago. I ordered the #7 special which was a taco and a Chile Rejeno. I was shivering and freezing cold. Don't know what's wrong.

My throat is also very dry and hoarse like.

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January 03, 2013 Catch up

What a great sleep. Went to bed at 8:30 and didn't wake until 7 am. What a good night's sleep. I'm freezing cold today. Lots of shivering and numb finger tips. Wow, I don't understand it. I hope it isn't serious.

Lunch was tacos by Christa. In the evening we went to Newport Beach where Joe and Christa rented an electric boat for a harbor tour. I wasn't well. They had crackers and cheese as well as wine onboard. We really enjoyed the harbor tour of Christmas lights. Wow. After the tour we went out to dinner at Mama Di's. I shared a spinach ravioli with Libbie. I was finally warmed up after dinner. The restaurant was incredibly good, especially the bread. Craig treated us to this meal.

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January 04, 2013 going home

We had a nice morning with Joe. Christa had a Dr appt so we walked Main St downtown and then down the pier. I found a green hoodie for \$15 at a sidewalk sale on the corner of main and PAC Coast hwy. It's a beautiful and a warm day for a walk. At 11 am we left for LAX and got there in plenty of time. On the plane we had wonderful seats on the exit row. Our seat mate was a very pretty blonde 16 year old. When we heard she was traveling alone to meet someone she met on the Internet our only thought was jailbait. We had to change planes in Las Vegas. In the airport we had a slice of Sbarro's mushroom and spinach pizza as our dinner meal. The flight to RDU was on time and very smooth. I discovered the free WiFi flight tracker provided by Southwest. Nice. We got in 10 minutes early. While Libbie waited for our bags I bailed our car out of the pay parking. Our bill was \$72 for 12 days. We got home at 1 am which wasn't bad.

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January 05, 2013 sniffle and sneeze

I am sniffing pretty bad today. I have a cold and am miserable with a runny nose, etc. This is a catch up day but I'm not very motivated.

Libbie went out and picked up the mail and we went through it this morning. Received an interesting scam letter requesting my tax money because they say Wells Fargo accidentally overpaid. This is a new type of scam. I listened to Les Troyans by Berlioz this afternoon. It's very beautiful but long. Dinner was ribs, Lima Beans and Barefoot Merlot. I spent most of my down time today working on a Photo Book using My Publisher. I have a coupon for a 70 page book for \$30. which expires Monday. (today is Saturday) The hardest part is making selections from all the photos we took.

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January 06, 2013 Miserable

Miserable day. I have a cold and my nose was running all day. I finally got a good result on authenticating Win 7 on my server. MS thinks my Windows is a pirate version. I found a script to remove the authentication registration entries and a program called Windows Loader that registers Windows. It worked. Windows now reports that it is authentic. Yay! In between bouts of blowing my nose and taking pills to dry up my nose I finished the MyPublisher photo album and submitted it. Because Libbie wanted the Wisconsin band we went over by a few pages beyond 70. Total was 74 pages for about \$44. Libbie made her fabulous pizza again for dinner.

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January 07, 2013 La Opera trip canceled

Wow, what misery. I stayed close to my tissue box all day. Went out in the PM and picked up 2 bags of trash at the greenhouse since this is garbage day. Received a call from Road Scholar that our LA Opera class was canceled. We'll do it on our own to take advantage of the air fare. Still don't have good trip plans yet other than we want to do 2 operas in LA on back to back nights. Dinner was curry chicken over spaghetti.

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January 08, 2013 TAVS

Libbie worked on cleaning the house and I worked on selecting slides for our "program" for TAVS today. I ran over to Kroger and got the fixins for the buffet lunch as well as the normal Tuesday groceries. The meeting went well. We had a new member, Gretchen, who seemed to be an overachiever. Later in the afternoon Libbie and I went to Trader Joes for the rest of our groceries. I enjoyed Donizetti Maria Stuarda live tonight. Received an interesting eMail about the AVSA website. Dinner was leftover chicken salad sandwiches on Hawaiian Rolls with macaroni salad. JoAnn Raymer brought a nice grilled vegetable dish for lunch which was yummy. It contained parsnips and turnips in a soy base. We had the leftover for dinner.

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January 09, 2013 Shopping

Doing much better today!!!! Talked to Anne this morning and then Richard about the AVSA website. It's amazing how long this thing is dragging on. Received SSA #2 today which also included the \$32 increase after Medicare deduction. Paid off the fence with the money I borrowed from Libbie before our trip. She said to apply it to the fence. It was \$3,000 a year ago and paid off today. I also paid off this months credit card with current cashflow which felt pretty good. After lunch we went to the Post Office with Libbie's shipping, AC Moore for a picture frame for the Rose Parade poster, Lowes for dry worms and Target for a plastic box for the wrapping paper Libbie is organizing in the dining room. Dinner was Lobster pasta.

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January 10, 2013 not much

I worked on the bluetooth version of an 8 relay box for the garden and also for use in the plant room. Dinner was Pork BBQ from Trader Joes.

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January 11, 2013 Symphony Seasons

Today would have been Mom's 92nd birthday. Sad. It's warm out so I went under the house to trace the telephone wires. No luck. The next step will be to try another pair in the cable. It's real foggy this evening. We had a light dinner of Briyani then went to the NC Symphony. I really enjoyed the performance. Tchaikovsky on both ends and guest violin soloist playing Piazzolo and Vivaldi 4 seasons in the middle. It was well matched, powerful and enjoyable.

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January 12, 2013 opera

Worked on relay stuff then went to the grocery store for dinner fixins before the 1 PM opera today. Il Trovatore is a favorite. Lib and I also took a quick walk around Seagroves. The sun is out and it's beautiful and warm today, over 70. While the opera was on I worked on the relay board for the garden irrigation. Dinner was salmon, broccoli and rice with Shiraz.

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January 13, 2013 greenhouse conduit

It's warm today. Libbie joined me at the greenhouse. I brought the miter saw out and used it to chop up the conduit into 6 foot lengths to be bundled and taken to the dump. This was successful. While I did that, Libbie emptied one table of potted orchids and also took down a heat tube and water line under the bench. There's still much to do.

Came home and worked in the garden. I trimmed the rose bushes and the Lantana and hauled away the trimmings in the cart. We watched the Golden Globe red carpet and then the show tonight while we enjoyed Libbie's outstanding pizza. She made a very thin crust this time which was excellent.

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January 14, 2013 hot tub

Most of the bills for the month have cleared and we will have over \$1k left over which is great thanks to Social Security. Started working on the Hot Tub. It looks like the leak is the spa light and not the pump which is good news. It also means lowering the water level to find why the spa light is leaking. I suspect a cracked lens. Dinner was Briyani with chicken.

~

January 15, 2013 Website

Studied plans for both the LA trip and the Toronto trip. Richard would like me to update the new website but there is no hurry since it will be a while before that thing flies. This afternoon I made a trip to Tigerdirect for an HDMI cable and an SD card for the Raspberry Pi. I got a tracking number for the PI yesterday. Dinner was Trader Joes pasta.

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January 16, 2013 Curry Soup

I got Orcad going and did a schematic for a new 8 relay irrigation timer with bluetooth. It's a cloudy rainy day. It may snow tomorrow evening. Dinner was Lentil Curry soup with butternut squash. Very good. I bought the ingredients yesterday including a Jalapeno pepper.

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January 17, 2013 Pi

Nancy came over this morning and we talked about the weather and the possibility of snow tomorrow. The Pi came today. It worked on the first try after getting everything hooked up. Earlier I made a trip to Walmart to get a USB wall charger to supply the thing since I didn't have any USB chargers. Dinner was BBQ on a bun with salad.

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January 18, 2013 Frosty

This is a frosty and icy morning. Yesterdays rain turned to snow in the past 2 hours overnight putting a coating on everything. The bad news was I had to get a blood sample taken at 7:50. There was no problem. I allowed plenty of time but didn't need it. Came back and did more Toronto trip planning. Removed the spa light from the hot tub this afternoon. It's cracked and was the source of our leak. A new one is on order. Dinner was chili, corn bread and Shiraz.

~

January 19, 2013 opera

This morning I worked on more scanning before we left for the Opera at 12:30. We had a very good performance of Maria Stuarda with joyce DiDonato. Also this morning I registered for the Gesneriad convention and made our Niagra Falls plans. Still need to sign up for Road Scholar and then get the airfare, After the Opera we drove to the Credit Union for trip money for this week.

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January 20, 2013 glorious day

After the morning shows I worked on the Pi some more. I'm looking for a remote control music player. Libbie delivered the finished quilt to Joy while I did this then she went to the greenhouse and worked a little more. After lunch I took down the rest of the shade cloth then we went for a walk around Seagrove farm. It's a sunny day around 60 which is perfect. I had a lot of success with the Logitech server software and a slave player on the Raspberry called Squeezeplug. The whole thing is controlled by an Android app called Squeezedroid. I love it!!!! There also is an Android player app but it is not free. Libbie made another one of her most excellent pizzas. It was great. I made reservations in Augustine, FL for my drive down on Tuesday. Not sure if it's really necessary.

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January 21, 2013 Squeeze player

This morning I built a case for my Pi. Rest of the day was spent trying to get the C-Media USB sound card working with the Squeezelite player.

I finally screwed it up so bad I ended up re-flashing an image on the SD card. With the USB sound device plugged in during setup it asked me which sound device I wanted to use. I chose the C-Media and suddenly all was well. Now I have good quality sound coming from the Pi streamed from my Traviata server. I rounded up all the garbage from the house today and also went to the greenhouse and picked up the bag of conduit scraps and misc trash. With luck this will get picked up before I leave for Sarasota in the morning.

I love having the music collection available at my finger tips on the Droid. Dinner was spaghetti covered with Curried chicken and cheese. Yum.

~

January 22, 2013 Travel

Took Lib to the airport for her 8:20 am flight to PVD. I took 3 packages to the Post Office then stopped across the street to change my dental appointment. It was next Monday when I was planning to travel home.

I got going at 9 am. Traffic was a bit heavy. Stopped for gas in Florence for 3.09 and had a banana. Next stop was St Marys, GA for gas and my PbNJ sandwiches I made before leaving home. I had until 4 to cancel my St Augustine Comfort Suites reservation but I didn't do it. Decided to explore St A which was worth it. Stopped at Wendys in front of the outlet mall for a hamburger for dinner.

~

January 23, 2013 sara

Left St Augustine in a leisurely trip. Almost got killed around Lakeland when a woman moved into my lane. I was in the fast lane.

I held down on the horn and was forced over to the shoulder. It was pretty scary going at 70 MPH and driving the shoulder. I got into Stoneybrook around 1 PM. Stopped into the Real Estate Office to hassle the staff

and also ordered a BLT for lunch from the clubhouse.

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January 24, 2013 ribs

I did a lot of reading about Raspberry Pi today. Went out and took a nice long walk around the neighborhood. The weather is perfect.

For dinner

I ordered a full rack of ribs which I had with Rodney Strong Merlot.

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January 25, 2013 clearwater

Another beautiful day. Decided to take a ride up to Clearwater to near the airport. It was a glorious drive across

Tampa Bay. I was out a

total of 4 hours. On the way home I stopped at Selby and walked around, checked out the art in

the Payne Mansion. An artist created art works

that resemble herbarium samples. I liked it. Dinner was the leftover ribs and

leftover Rodney Strong merlot.

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January 26, 2013 clean

I took my time cleaning the condo - dusting and washing dirty and dusty surfaces. At noon I went out for

a wonderful walk. An eagle dove for

a fish right next to me as I walked on the sidewalk next to our pond out front.

Pretty cool. It's a warm and beautiful day. During the

Opera I continued to do cleaning including laundry.

Mostly everything

is in good shape. Had to make a trip to Lowes for CF light bulbs since

one was missing in the bedroom lamp.
I don't understand that. While
I was out I picked up a sub which I had with the rest of the Barefoot
Merlot. Made reservations
for Hilton Head for tomorrow night.
I hope to walk the beach early Monday morning before leaving.

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January 27, 2013 drive

Up at 5:30 am today, probably because I went to bed at 9 last night reading the Tracy Kidder novel, Strength in What Remains. Did the last minute cleaning which included washing the sheets and towels, mopping the floors and packing the refrigerator stuff and food. I got going at 11:40. The weather was beautiful and I hated to leave. The trip was uneventful. It started getting dark crossing Lake Marion then it started raining pretty hard. It was good for cleaning the windshield but not good for travel. Half an hour down the road the sky turned blue and it was easy sailing once again. Traffic was light and I got home at 1:30. My only food was a Chipotle wrap when I got gas on I-4 at the the exit where the RVs are buried at an angle in mimicry of Cadillac ranch.

Monitored my gas range using the trip computer to make sure I could make it to exit 8 in SC. I had plenty of gas to spare when I stopped for a fillup. The sign said there was a Wendys but it seemed to be closed and empty. I continued down the little 2 lane road out to the beach. Traffic was bumper to bumper and lots of construction with a 45 MPH speed limit. It was dark so I couldn't find a dinner stop. I wanted some Wendy's chili. It's also cold, in the 50s which is a lot cooler than when I was on I-4 and it was 80. Made my way to the Comfort Inn. Check in was slow, the front desk clerk was a putz. He spent an inordinate amount of time showing the woman in front of me where the restaurants are on a map. I just wanted to check in and get to a room. Didn't care for the hotel with outdoor exposed hallways. It was cold. Went out after settling in and bought some chicken tenders and a cheesecake slice from a Bi Low grocery store a short distance from the hotel. It was 8 PM and they were clearing out the rotisserie case. Not what I wanted but it was convenient and I was hungry. Talked to Libbie from bed using the tablet on the WiFi. It worked well for me, she said there was an echo.

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January 28, 2013 home

Got up early and put all my stuff in the car and drove to the front desk building for breakfast. The breakfast room was crowded, all of them construction workers apparently renovating the hotel. Next went to the public beach access. Parked on the street and walked the brick path to the beach. It was beautiful. The weather was a little chilly around 50 with a breeze but not bad. Got going around 9 am. I enjoyed the trip across Hilton Head and took the toll road. It was a lot nicer than driving in the dark. Got gas at the Wendys Travelstop North of Florence. Gas was 3.14, what a deal. Traffic was light although it got dark around Lake Marion and started raining. Twenty miles later the sky was blue and sunny. Nice. Got home at 1:30 pm.

Once home I went

to the greenhouse and picked up the trash into two big garbage bags then went to the Post Office and retrieved our mail which included 2 Raspberry Pis and the Spa Light for the Hot Tub as well as an MS Lifecam and Global Vegetarian book. I tried the Lifecam and it works really well.

Put the garbage cans out for tomorrow and picked up a Kroger pizza for dinner. The deluxe full size was on sale for \$3 which I ate approx 75% of. Not good. The pizza wasn't tasty and the calories were too high. I listened to the Premiere of Rigoletto on the Met tonight.

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January 29, 2013 pick up Libbie

Up early. Talked to Libbie early who was supposed to leave at 8:55 from PVD but her flight was delayed until 10:30. I worked outside a little cleaning pine straw off the roof and carrying it to the back fence as mulch. Left at 2:15 since Libbie's plane is expected to land at 2:25. Went straight to the terminal and picked her up. When we got home the mailman drove up and dropped off the new router and the relay boards from china. Now I have a lot to do. Dinner was thin spaghetti covered with mozzarella cheese. Before dinner we took a walk around Seagrove Farm. It's a beautiful day. We noticed they were working on

the house next to the pond once again.

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January 30, 2013 music

I noticed there is a weather station in Surrey Meadows so I zeroed in on it and took a walk looking for it. I think I found the third house from the corner with a possible weather station on the roof, maybe not. Can't see it from the front but if you go around the corner and look down the row of backyards, it looks like there may be something near the roof ridge. Spent a ridiculous amount of time building an Ethernet cable for my Raspberry Pi music client. The power supplies came from Adafruit. Now I only need the SD cards which are on their way from Newegg. Dinner was salmon patties with lettuce and mayo. We did not have any more greek yogurt with dill which we originally purchased from Trader Joe.

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January 31, 2013 music player

Went to the grocery store with Libbie to pick up supplies for the veggie tortilla she wants to make. Met Nancy Doggett in Trader Joes. I tried today to get the music player going in a case. No luck. The SD card may be corrupt so I downloaded a new Squeezeplug image and put it on the SD card. I will have to do setup again, probably tomorrow. The meal was wonderful. It contained black beans, shallots and other goodies between two tortillas covered with salsa and sour cream. We had it with a Rodney Strong Sauvignon Blanc.

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February 01, 2013 doctor visit

I had a pretty good checkup at the Doctors office today. I lost 10 pounds since last year but my blood pressure and triglycerides are still up too high. He changed my bp medicine which I picked up at Kroger with Libbie when we both went over there on a grocery run. She got some more tortillas for Sat night and a few things for tonights dinner.

I got the Pi going again after the SD card got corrupted. I need some kind of shutdown on the device so this doesn't happen again. I also will save the card image on my laptop. The Natl Geo park of National Parks came as well as my new camera for the Pi. This will give me an HD cam web server when I get it hooked up. Dinner was the Meyer Lemon chicken from Cooking Light magazine.

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February 02, 2013 nice day

I saved the raspberry image of squeezeplug to my raspberry then went outside and blew the driveway off. I also spent some time organizing files on my laptop, offloading some files and pictures that needed to be archived. At 7 we left for the NC Symphony. We had a serving of Meyer Lemon chicken before leaving. The program was loud and invigorating. It ataryed with Strauss' Sprach Zarathustra then went into the Blue Danube before doing Star Wars and Star Trek. The second half was the planets with nice NASA HD imagery playing in HD. It was quite a nice eveningg.

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February 03, 2013 many things

What a great day. I got a bootloader burned into the Meistersinger Atmega2560. This one has a watchdog timer issue and needed a bootloader with the correction. I used an Arduino Uno to burn the bootloader using a sketch I found online. Got it all back together and added the watchdog code so if the thing crashes it will recover. It crashed twice in the past 6 months. After lunch I went outside and added lime to the pansies and questionable fertilizer. The fertilizer was very wet and possibly not effective because the good stuff may have washed out. My next act was to diagnose the hot tub. Bought a brass plug, 1/8 inch, from Lowes. Replaced the pressure switch with the plug and worked on the switch. Seemed to have gotten it going again. Hooked it up and the water is heating at 1.5 degrees per hour. Woo Hoo! The Super Bowl is on tonight. Libbie is watching it but I'm not. Went downstairs for some pizza which was our dinner - another winner by Libbie!!! Came back upstairs to read "Strength in What Remains" by Tracy Kidder.

~

February 04, 2013 crash

Meistersinger crashed at midnight last night. I pressed reset to get it going again. I studied watchdog circuits this morning before Libbie wanted me to print some shipping labels. I wasn't happy with this. We left earlier for our dance lesson so we could complete some paperwork. We signed up for a 4 lesson package for \$300. We couldn't remember the steps from last week. We need these lessons. Dinner was the good Tortillas stuffed with corn and beans and topped with salsa and sour cream. Good stuff. In the evening we listened to Rigoletto live from the Met. This is a good Opera. The trivia question was which Operas have candy mentioned in them.

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February 05, 2013 dancing

Busy day today. I went to the dentist at 10:10 am then to the grocery store where I first got a haircut at great clips then got the Tuesday groceries. The darned Meistersinger Home monitor crashed again. I'm having a hard time figuring out why. I talked with Andrea about the upcoming DVD we're supposed to be putting together. The router crashed once while we were talking. Need to work on getting another router outfitted with DD-WRT. We had another ballroom class at 3:30 today. I think I'm getting the hang of this. This was a lot easier than our very first lesson a week ago and we seem to be a lot better.

~

February 06, 2013 No dancing

This was our day off from dancing this week. I worked outside in the nice 61 degree weather and trimmed the Holly Bushes in the front of the house and on the side next to the walkway. Dinner was Trader Joe's BBQ sandwiches.

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February 07, 2013 more dancing

Meistersinger continues to crash. As a temporary fix I wrote an ass kicker program for an Arduino Uno which will reset Meister every hour.

It will run on it's own supply and the only connection will be reset and ground. I put another step in off our walkway next to the pond going into the garden. I wanted this done before the rains this afternoon. They are predicting over an inch which is going to be a blizzard for the North East. We went to Ballroom this afternoon and spent the whole class doing Swing. I get confused with the footwork at times but feel confident this will become more natural with practice. I hooked up a Raspberry Pi at home in the Family Room to the stereo system. Libbie and I practiced swing and foxtrot. It was a lot of fun. Dinner was spaghetti with tomato sauce and cheese.

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February 08, 2013 dance party

I had a lot of trouble with the ass kicker circuit. The Uno device appears to be dead. I switched to the Ethernet Pro from Sparkfun. Had to come up with a power supply but the ones I found had the wrong connector. Cut off a connector from another PS and soldered it on. Had trouble when I initially hooked it up in the closet. It didn't work. Found the connector strip plugged in backwards. All is now well and the resets seem to be issued because the thing worked all day long. Went to Jerrys and picked up a Botanicals book and 2 tubes of green watercolor.

Packed my suitcase in the afternoon because we have a dance lesson tonight and then a dance party. We learned some swing dance from a beautiful young girl named Erica. Turns out her Dad and brother were also there dancing and are quite good. Her Dad bought the family dance lessons for Christmas 10 years ago. We enjoyed the lesson until 8 then the Dance Party started. I danced with Erica a few times then with Libbie. We left at 9 but went over to the Fred Astaire place in mcGregor Village to see if they had a party as well. It was 9 PM and they were closing, there were about 6 people there. We leave for FL in the morning. Dinner tonight was crabcakes with tomato on bread rounds.

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February 09, 2013 drive to Sarasota

We had breakfast and loaded the car up this morning. We got going by 7:02 AM, not bad. It's 36 degrees outside. Topped off the gas in Florence at 3.28 and also bought 2 bacon, egg and cheese biscuits. Traffic was surprisingly heavy for a Saturday. We think it's cars escaping the blizzard which is going on in the NorthEast. Libbie called bill. He said power was out but his gas log is running. Portsmouth was showing 100% out this morning when we left. She also later talked to Mary and George who were on generator in Tiverton. Their generator doesn't run the electric heat strips. Stopped in St Mary for gas at 3.54 and lunch which was a McDonalds Snack Wrap. Traffic was sluggish through Orlando with a little stop and go through the Seaworld-Disney corridor. Traffic picked up again after Disney. We got to the condo at 6:15 PM. Unpacked the car, changed clothes and had dinner at the clubhouse. We both had salmon on a plank with Cabernet. Desert was chocolate tort. After dinner we did a quick Publix trip for milk and soup for lunch. It's a warm 78 degrees this evening.

~

February 10, 2013 pizza

We watched CBS Sunday Morning then went over to Selby and enjoyed the gardens. We also toured the Botanical exhibits that are in the Payne mansion and that I like. Libbie didn't care for it but she admitted to warming up to it later. Lunch was a cran turkey sandwich and rain forest cookie in the garden under the Banyan tree. Very nice!!! We took a drive across Siesta Key before coming back. Walked around Stoneybrook at Sunset and also had cheese and crackers with wine at sunset. We ordered a large cheese pizza from Valentinos on Clark then drove over to pick it up. We had our pizza with wine then watched the Grammys. Not a bad show, I never heard of a lot of the artists but enjoyed the music.

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February 11, 2013 dog show

Didn't wake this morning until 7:10, wow! After the morning shows we headed over to Ringling. Really enjoyed the Paolo Veronese exhibition. Paolo was a renaissance painter. One painting, the baptism of Christ, was from the NC Museum of Art. We had lunch of Italian Sausage with peppers and onions under the Banyans. Some folks from near Syracuse, NY joined us at a picnic table since the tables under the Banyans were full. We did half of the museum because we got tired after a while. Will come back for the rest another day. We went out for dinner to Bangock Thai where I had a Singha beer and Chicken Pad thai. Libbie had Scallops Pad Thai. The Westminster show was on. The judge was Dennis from Apex, judging the Toy group.

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February 12, 2013 dancing

Busy day. Libbie painted the bookshelves out on the Lanai. We got the bikes out, pumped up the tires and took a ride outside to the front wetlands then down McIntosh and home. We went over to Peter and Christa's for wine at 5 PM then to the clubhouse for dinner. I had a Veggie burger which was out of this world. We then went to the goup dance lesson and social at Sarasota Ballroom on Swift. Fun night!!!! The dance was way over my head, it was a Rhumba.

~

February 13, 2013 pub night

Another pretty day with a temp around 80. Nice. Libbie finished sealing the bookshelf out on the Lanai. We then drove to Yoders for Honeybells but they don't have any. Instead we purchased turkey, swixx and Amish bread and a tomato for a sandwich. It was an outstanding sandwich.

Took a bike ride after lunch then a walk around the block (2 miles) before dinner. We went over to pub night which was very crowded. Bought raffle tickets from the Breast Cancer foundation fund raiser. Libbie spread the tickets around the prizes (\$10 for 5 tickets). I had 2 glasses of Yuengling draft with Cajun spiced Amberjack and the family style salad with garlic bread toasted. Overall it was a nice night.

During the day today I finished the first sample project for the B4A compiler. NExt I'm going to tackle a database.

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February 14, 2013 Valentines Day

It's a cloudy misty day. We left for Dunedin to Rainbows End quilt shop. By the time we got there it was really raining. While Libbie fabric shopped I walked outside looking for the train station. We got in the car and drove downtown where I finally found it. I got out in the rain and took pics of the station. It looks like it was turned into a cafe. On the way home it rained quite a bit. Stopped at the Outlet Mall in Ellenton then we did the quilt shop in Palmer Ranch. I got some black slacks for 10.99 in the VF Outlet store. I chose not to go into the Palmer Ranch quilt shop. Libbie bought a red fabric in there. In the evening we had a 6:45 PM Dining Room reservation. We had a very nice prime rib dinner with baked potato, rolls, veggies and a Yorkshire pudding thing. We shared a Key Lime pie for desert with coffee. Accompanying dinner we had 2 glasses of Cabernet. This was a nice Valentine dinner for us.

~

February 15, 2013 ferns

It looks dry but a little chilly out this morning. We have the outdoor fern class at 10 am. We went to Bill the fern guy's house on Trinidad near the Bangkok Thai. The weather started out cool and cloudy but later the sun came out. Bill's house is very eclectic. The whole yard is covered in tropical plants with the backyard given over to all Staghorn Ferns. Amazing and junky at the same time. You have to have understanding neighbors to own a yard like this. After the fern class we went to Yoders for fruit and lunch fixins and then to Lowes for steel wool and wax for the bookcase. I went out with Libbie later in the day so she could get more fabric from Sew Right, the quilt store in Palmer Ranch. We went over to the clubhouse for dinner. I had panko crusted amberjack with french fries and cole slaw. For an appetizer I had New England Clam Chowder.

~

February 16, 2013 disappointment

This morning we took a walk then had an early lunch so we could go to the opera. The theater parking lot at the Sarasota mall was pretty full. We were there a half hour early and were told at the box office that Rigoletto was sold out. I inquired when was the encore. I was told that was sold out too!!!! Wow. We left disappointed and listened to the Opera on Sirius satellite radio in the condo. In the evening we left at 6 PM for the NY/NJ party. We had a table of 6 with one couple who lives in Paris for the summer and another from Buffalo. Both parties recently sold their Stoneybrook condos. We judged them as having aged out. Dinner was a buffet of beef on rolls, crab cakes, pierogi, spring rolls, wings and salads topped by cheesecake and canolis for desert. This wouldn't be my choice of a buffet, especially for \$20 but it was OK. The DJ was terrible. Many people just sat there as he played non dance music such as the theme from Shaft and Saturday Night Fever but the people came out for dancable music. We had 2 glasses of wine with dinner for a total of \$67 including tax and tip. Not bad for an evening party.

~

February 17, 2013 ballet

It's cold today. High only in the 50s with some wind. We took a walk around the block but Libbie wanted to stop at every bird, I wanted to keep walking. I don't like standing still like this. We left for the ballet in Bradenton at 1 PM for a 2 PM performance. The ballet, La Baladeyre was the best ever. My favorite host, Katerina, wore a Lacy form fitting red dress. This girl is beautiful. The third act of the ballet was the best I've ever seen. The scene called the dance of the shades featured 32 ballerinas in white Tutus moving down a spiral ramp on a black stage. The only lighting was on the white Tutus. Exquisite!!!

On the way back we stopped into Trader Joes and picked up some wine and cereal. Dinner was a pizza we picked up from Valentinos and ate at the condo with Shiraz while watching 60 minutes.

~

February 18, 2013 Dance

It was a chilly morning so we stayed indoors. After our normal turkey

sandwich lunch we went out to Ringling and did the galleries on the left side of the museum that we didn't do last week. Notables were a wall of Harlequin paintings featured because they purchased the 15th painting to complete the set. I noticed a room full of Rubens paintings, something I was not previously aware of. I knew the front room with the 4 huge paintings existed but not the room with smaller works. I also found a Greco of the crucifixion which reminded me of a blackboard painting I did and photographed in 7th grade. The other work of note was the lady strapped to a bull on the front lawn that I never noticed before. She is a Christian being punished for her faith. The story says her assistant saved her by killing the bull. The Romans let her go after this. I photographed the statue in multiple views. After the museum we walked Selby and made note of some Staghorn ferns we had noticed before. We went to the free dance lesson at 7 then paid \$20 for the one hour class following. The free class was a circle of us doing various steps. The paid group class was great, we practiced the foxtrot for the entire hour including doing a turn as part of the second step of foxtrot.

~

February 19, 2013 vinyl base

We went to the Celery Fields to do some birding today. On the way home we stopped at Yoders at the mall for lunch fixings. From the mall I picked up a clamp to finish the vinyl baseboard job in the bathroom. I also picked up a scrap of 2x4 so I could use one clamp and the 2x4 across 3 feet of base to secure it to the wall. I returned to Lowes because the glue we purchased said that it won't work on non porous surfaces. I picked up some silicon instead and finished the baseboard job. It takes 3 hours for the silicon to dry. We went out for dinner to the clubhouse where Bingo was going on. I never knew about Bingo but apparently it's \$5 a card and hundreds of dollars per prize, basically splitting the proceeds among the winning cards. I had panko crusted amberjack which was still good even though they overcooked it. It came with fries, cole slaw and white rolls. We also had a house salad.

~

February 20, 2013 b4a

I had a lot of luck today with B4A and accessing an SQLite database. I successfully displayed the first 10 violet names from the database. Now I need to take it further so that search works, then the click on the listview item to retrieve a record. Around noon we hooked up the bikes and went to the celery fields. It was 81 degrees and very enjoyable. What a nice day. Came home, had lunch and worked on the database some more as well as started reading Linda Howard "Ice" in earnest. I really like the story so far. We had crackers and cheese for a lite dinner then went to Turandot. This was one of the best Operas I have seen by Sarasota. It was incredibly good. We were in aisle H against the wall. The seats were pretty good, I was surprised. All the principals and the chorus gave their all. The sound was fantastic. This is so much better than HD.

~

February 21, 2013 bookcase

I spent a lot of time today on the SQL for the violet viewer. I created a large database of 10,000 items but it didn't seem to work. I get an IO error. The smaller 100 record database works better. I need to investigate this some more. The bookcase is a disaster. The paint job is pretty shitty, very careless application of paints and drips everywhere. I'm pissed at myself for not catching this sooner. I'm trying a last chance recovery by using the sanding sponge to sand off the finish on the outside and the stain to essentially paint the inside with stain to cover up the crappy brush work. This may be the best I can do. I didn't go out and do anything fun today, just a Lowes trip for furniture pads and to look at painting options.

We went to the

Clubhouse for rib night. It was crowded because of the Dixieland Festival. We saw Peter and Christa there, Peter has a UK friend looking for a place next year. I had a half rack of ribs with baked potato, string beans and salad. Two glasses of Cabernet complemented the meal.

I enjoyed watching a young European women in a slinky dress that showed off the outline of her thong and was low enough cut that every time she bent over to attend to her child she put on quite a display of flesh. Came home to Parsifal live on Sirius XM.

~

February 22, 2013 Michigan Party

I used the whitewash stain and put a coat of stain on the inside of the bookcase to disguise the sloppy brush work. It sort of worked, the inside doesn't look too bad now. This was a last ditch effort before hauling the thing to Goodwill. We took a little bike ride around the neighborhood before stowing the bikes for the season and went back to cleaning up the condo. I finished the story "Burglars" and posted it to ASSTR. I'm now working on the sequel, "Alice Returns". It feels good to be writing again. We called Craig and Debbie to get Dsrshelle's address to send a Sympathy card for her Mother's death this week. The funeral is tomorrow. We drove to Target before the Michigan party and filled the card out in the Publix parking lot and mailed it at the mailbox conveniently in front of the Pack and Mail store. We went to the MI party at 6 PM where there were hors d'oeuvres and drinks. The buffet was very nice, much better than the NY/NJ one last week. Doo Wop Denny was the entertainment. He is quite good and played some very nice dance music which is pretty popular. The couple we sat with was from Lancaster, PA. They have been Ballroom dancing for 10 years and were quite good. Travel tomorrow isn't looking too good. There is a huge rainstorm covering the SouthEast which we would drive into.

~

February 23, 2013 Drive Home

We got up normally and looked at the Radar. It's a good rain falling in Georgia and South Carolina. We watched GMA and took our time cleaning up the condo and packing the car. We got going around 10 AM. It was quite warm, I was hot from carrying all the items to the car. We ran the A/C up a notch to cool down. On our journey the temperature in FL peaked out at 86. We had the usual trouble in Orlando where it was stop and go around the outlet Mall East of Disney World. The jam ups began as we reached hwy 192 which is the Disney Main Gate and continued for the next few exits. Finally we got going again without incident. We hit heavy rain just South of Savannah for about 20 miles. We checked our tablet in the SC Visitors center to see what the radar looked like. I was pleasantly pleased by the fact that we finished traveling in the worst of the rain. Woo Hoo. We had stops for gas in Ormond Beach where Libbie bought Doritos, water and granola bars. We ate

our turkey and cheese sandwiches on the road with the Doritos and water.

Next stop was McDonalds in Florence for dinner. We had grilled chicken snack wraps. Gas light was on going into Florence where gas was 3.55 per gallon. We paid 3.79 in Ormond Beach. We got home at 9:35 which was good considering we didn't know if we were going all the way or not depending on the weather.

~

February 24, 2013 home

It's nice to be done with the driving and spend the day at home. Libbie has a huge pile of boxes already to go tomorrow while I worked on backing up pictures, etc. We had Lib's homemade pizza tonight while watching the Oscars. I started with the red carpet at 6 then the main show started at 8:30.

~

February 25, 2013 watercolor 1

I left at 8 today for Watercolor at Carolina Preserve. Traffic on 55 wasn't bad. I arrived there at 8:20. Put the broccoli salad into the refrigerator in the kitchen and then picked a table. Met Becky and the rest of the class. She is a good teacher. I really learned a lot about mixing green and also about brushing out hard edges. This was helpful. Also helpful was the avoidance of long surfaces of solid color. Different colors are used to add interest and texture to a surface.

The pot lunch was way over the top. JoAnn had a lot to do with the nice environment. Came home around 4:00 and started sorting through 2 weeks of mail. Wells Fargo is offering a 15% discount for the tax check. I quickly wrote a Scottrade check. I will mail it when I go to watercolor tomorrow. The Pi cases also arrived from Adafruit. I didn't spend much time with the Pi stuff since there was too much mail to go through. Dinner was spaghetti with tomato sauce and pizza cheese sprinkled over the top.

~

February 26, 2013 watercolor 2

It was pouring rain all day today. Today was spent painting KOI. The painting is great but I'm not really into fish. I learned a lot about controlling the paint and feathering hard edges. This has been a good learning experience and Becky is very good because she keeps talking as she paints on the easel in front of the class. Lunch was pot luck. I brought my broccoli again. I had lasagna, pizza, curry chicken salad and my broccoli salad. JoAnn brought girl scout cookies for the class. She is making a very large version of what we are making in the small version. I also liked JoAnn's Christmas card idea. She took one of her winter scenes and had it made into Christmas cards last year. This is my idea of a Christmas Card! I was pretty tired by the end of the day. We had spent 8 hours painting! I drove home in the rain at 5:30, hwy 55 was pretty busy but moving along. When I got home Libbie and I took inventory then went out to Krogers because it was old geezer day. Dinner was rotisserie chicken with macaroni and potato salad. The Met tonight was Carmen live which I listened to until the end of the first act.

~

February 27, 2013 dancing

Did some file work on Traviata backing up, moving files, etc. We got ready for dancing again and went to Carolina Ballroom for our 3:30 dance lesson. We learned quite a bit of the Foxtrot and the Rumba. After dancing we went over to Trader Joes for our other food stocks including wine. Dinner was the rest of the rotisserie chicken with macaroni and potato salad. Andrea called in the evening with the start of the DVD. She has quite a bit of work defined for only the intro. I stayed up late listening to Parsifal until 11:30 PM and reading online.

~

February 28, 2013 oil change

I had a 10 am Leith appt for the corolla for 25,000 service. This was my last prepaid visit. On the way back I stopped at Jerrys and got some graph paper, a bigger palette, hooker green paint and a watercolor book of landscape scenes. Also stopped into Trader Joes for oatmeal and then Kroger for 81 mg aspirin. I picked up the 500 count aspirin

for 1.4 cents per tablet. Libbie and I then returned to Kroger for gas since it was the last day of the month for our points. We got 30 cents off per gallon making it 3.45. The total bill was \$51, wow!!!1

I'm glad we don't have one of those bozomobiles that needs 16 gallons per fillup. We had a private lesson at 3:30 with Robert at Carolina Ballroom today. It was pretty good since we concentrated on the Foxtrot and did traveling in the foxtrot. There was where we kept taking steps forward and also did some of the change your mind step and turning counterclockwise.

For dinner today Libbie made a fantastic Meyer lemon chicken with shallots and garlic and roasted greenbeans for the veggie. We had Rodney Strong Sauvignon Blanc with the meal. Jack came over today to transplant geraniums. He also brought his laptop to get the hard drive out so he could salvage the data. I removed the drive and now I have to find an external case for it so it can plug into a desktop USB port.

~

March 01, 2013 Dance party

Went out to Labcorp for a 9:25 appt for blood testing. When I got back I mounted Jack's hard drive into one of my aluminum cases. I also tried to disassemble his laptop and diagnose the problem with the battery charging. His laptop won't charge the battery anymore. Best Buy said the power jack was bad. I found it was good but since wires from the jack go to the motherboard I surmised the motherboard circuitry is at fault. In the PM we had to repair one of the shelves on the tower which had sprung a leak. We went to the greenhouse and got some poly which we cut into a 4x8 and lined the shelf before putting down the mats. It seemed to work well. I need to purchase a 4x8 sheet of plywood and some 1x2s to coat another shelf with resin. After a yummy dinner of Meyer lemon chicken we went to the group class at 7:15. We lucked out since we were the only ones who showed up so we essentially had a private lesson with Erica learning a few more steps to the Salsa. I felt good about the lesson but we need some music at home to practice to. We did the dance party afterwards and lasted from 8:00 to 9:15. I'm not sure how long the party goes on. I'm pretty happy with our progress in ballroom techniques to date.

~

March 02, 2013 Parsifal

We have 6 hours of Parsifal in HD on the schedule for today. This morning I worked on ASSTR, creating a spotlight for the Burglars Part 2 and looking at reworking the web page. We left at 11:30 for the noon start of Parsifal in Crossroads. The Opera was transporting. It ended at 5:50, 6 hours of heavenly music and outstanding singing. I thought the production, even though it was modern, worked well. Of course it helped to have an outstanding cast to sing it. Dinner was the rest of the Meyer chicken with onion, potato and Shiraz. Andrea has been trying to call today for the commercial tour we're working on.

~

March 03, 2013 tour

Worked on the hot tub on and off today. I can manually turn the pump on then the heater but if I turn the heat up with the pump off the thing goes into a lockout. I'm not sure what is going on. This will need more diagnosis. I also assembled some pics for the Bluebird portion of the tour. This is going to take quite a bit of time.

In order

to make more room in the laundry room, Libbie and I went to Lowes and picked up another shelf board. It needs painting before we can proceed.

Dinner was Libbie's super pizza.

~

March 04, 2013 movie making

The hot tub now works!!!! Hooked up a meter and dynamically calibrated the pressure switch with the VOM. I found the switch sometimes stayed closed after the motor turned off so I turned the adjustment some more so it definitely turned off. It seems to be reliable now!!!!

Yes! All seems to be well. Worked on another movie today and finished the Violet Barn as well as part 2 of Bluebird. The Violet Barn movie is 300 megs so uploading may be a problem. It's pretty cold out today. Libbie didn't ship into the Northeast because they are going to have a major snow storm up there. We're supposed to get rain. I updated

the website today removing more of the Dandy Pots. We only have three colors of mini Dandy's left and none of the Regular size ones. Dinner was Pesto Pasta with tomato sauce and cheese sprinkled.

~

March 05, 2013 movie making

Started the Lyndon Lyons movie but Andrea doesn't want the movies. She said she will pick pictures and audio pieces to go together. I don't think this is going to work. I'm willing to go along to see how this is going to work. Talked to Joy about Rick's colonoscopy. He's going to the same place I'm going to but on Monday instead of Friday. I picked up some chicken and beef broth at Kroger for my Thursday meals. I was thinking that maybe this could be the start of a weight loss regimen? It's a rainy day out so we spent time indoors all day. Dinner was a nice chicken over angel hair pasta that Libbie found on Christa's pinterest board.

~

March 06, 2013 dancing

I got some good news in that Andrea enlisted Joe Bruns to help with the video. This is going to be interesting!!! I bought some steel posts and pounded them into the ground around the Mondo Grass in front.

Next I recycled the garden fence but it was 40 feet short. Went back to Lowes and got a 50 foot roll of fencing but have not installed it yet.

We had a pretty good ballroom session today with Robert. I learned how to do turns in the waltz and also we learned about under arm turns in the swing. Pretty successful. Dinner tonight was another lemon chicken recipe that Libbie found. Very good.

~

March 07, 2013 prep

Went to Lowes this morning and got rabbit repellent for the areas that are not fenced. Applied the stuff and then worked on installing the

shelf in the laundry room that Libbie painted yesterday. It fit amazingly well. My only meals today were shredded wheat for breakfast and beef broth. I started the colon prep tonight. Uggh! Libbie had spaghetti and tomato sauce for dinner while I watched. No meal tonight for me.

~

March 08, 2013 colonoscopy

Went downstairs at 6:10 and started the colon prep round 2. This stuff has made me lethargic and nauseous. Awful, awful, awful. No food or drink this morning. Libbie's oatmeal sure smells good. We left at 10:36 for my 11 AM appointment on Blue Ridge road at Wake Endoscopy. They took me right away and I went in to undress, get hooked up to an IV and some electrocardiograms. I was super happy with my blood pressure which was significantly below 120/80. One time it was 111/62 while resting on the bed waiting for the doctor. The procedure went very well. I stayed sleeping throughout the procedure, unlike last time. When I woke Libbie was by my side. Unfortunately I had one polyp which didn't look bad but is going out for a biopsy anyway. Came home and had a nice lunch of a bowl of tomato soup and toast on the back porch. I spent the afternoon reading on our bed. Tried not to fall asleep. Dinner was chicken and broccoli after which we watched Undercover Boss which featured the CEO of Squaw Valley Ski resort. I skipped Ballroom tonight because I didn't think I could make it through more than one or two dances even though I seemed to be back to 100%.

~

March 09, 2013 ballet

Nice day. I put together a design and started some software for the TG Flower Timer II which is going to irrigate the flower garden and greenhouse. I decided to use a Boarduino as the driver of the 8 relays. It will have the Adafruit RTC and LCD backpack but interface to the world through a Raspberry Pi. I hope to do the PI communications via the serial port. The opera started at 11 today but had some problems with the Soprano and French horns putting out bad notes. That's live opera I guess. Andrea informed me that the DVDs I sent her were the wrong movie files. She got Rob and Olive instead of Brenda movies.

I booked the hotel and plane tickets for Austin but I still need to fill out the PDF file registration.

We went to Carolina Ballet in the evening. It was a hip hop ballet which I'm still not sure about. I liked the classic piece, Siegfried Idyl much better. It was beautiful and flowing. The program was short. We were out by 10 for an 8 oclock performance. We sat in Row D in the balcony. I liked the seats.

~

March 10, 2013 Outside

After the CBS morning show we went to the Farmers MArket for snapdragons and veggies. We saw a policeman on the Lake Wheeler Bridge with a radar device. wow, sneaky. There were no snaps at the Market. Next stop was Lowes then BJ's. I got bark and the snap dragons. Next stop was BJ's for bacon, cheese and tuna. After BJ's we checked out the Releve dance shop. It looks like this one will do Libbie for shoes with ankle straps.

It was a beautiful and warm day. I started by putting the shade on the greenhouse. Next was spreading pine straw along the fence that Libbie raked up. Finally I finished the temporary fencing along the Mondo grass. I also worked on the mechanical details of the Flower Timer II. Libbie made her fabulous pizza once again for Sunday night dinner.

~

March 11, 2013 cleanup

Joy and Jack came over to help Libbie. I cleaned up the driveway and garage for violet club tomorrow. Worked on scoping out the relay board cable build. Libbie bought some dresses today and I accompanied her to return one jacket top which was \$50. We went out to La Cosina after the trip to the Cary Mall.

~

March 12, 2013 tavs

We had a nice violet club today. Libbie demonstrated how to plant violets the Bluebird Way. I had an opportunity to repot my Sinningias which were in pretty soppy soil. I ended up mixing perlite into potting soil to thin it out. I bought buns and chicken salad while Libbie made tuna salad for the meeting. Dinner tonight was the leftover sandwiches. We listened to the live broadcast of Francesca Di Riemeni.

~

March 13, 2013 busy

This was a busy day. Early in the morning Lib and I tried to practice dancing for our lesson but the phone kept interrupting. this was at 9 in the morning of all things. I helped Jack put together the portable drive case he bought for his laptop drive. I finished building the cable for the relay board and photographed it for documentation. Would love to test it with a program that steps through each of the relays. I made a trip to Home Depot for antenna cable and spent some time routing it under the house. The FM antenna arrived this afternoon via FedEx from Michigan. It looks pretty good. We planted the tomato and some Marigold seeds after lunch then we had to get ready for our ballroom lesson. I feel we did well today. We added the cha cha to our repertory. I wrote down some of the dance steps and also Roberts idea of a program for us. He is talking about over 100 lessons at something like \$5,000. When we came home Libbie and I cooked a Farfalle, Kale and Italian Sausage meal. It was quite good. After dinner I booked a room for Joe and Christa at the Riviera. It was going to be \$377 per night but I got it for \$332 on a AAA rate. That's still pretty pricey but we'll be OK.

~

March 14, 2013 Busy again

Joe turned me onto "Otel" where I was able to book a hotel room at the Riviera for \$159 plus tax and fees. This is a significant savings. The bottom line was \$184. I went over to the greenhouse and fetched the roll of plastic to line another plant room shelf. The resin is not holding up for me. Perhaps the coating was too thin. Routed the cable from outside to the stereo and temporarily hooked up the FM antenna on a twenty foot pole. The FM reception is excellent. I will

try to mount this on the roof or else on a pole in the side yard. Dinner was the Farfalle Kale with a glass of shiraz. We listened to Traviata live tonight. It was the season premiere. Domingo seems to slur his Italian words compared to other renditions we have heard over the years.

~

March 15, 2013 ballroom

This was an outdoor morning. It's pretty cold outside. I repaired the garden house and hooked up the Miracle Grow sprayer. I don't like this thing. It seemed to be uneven in it's application. sometimes the water was clear, other times it was blue. I could get it to change by shaking the end of the hose nozzle or holding it upside down. Next I went up the ladder onto the roof with a broom and swept the pine needles off the skylights and up towards the chimney. Removed the old dish and lowered it via rope. I was hoping to put the FM antenna there but the standpipe is too close to the chimney so I'll mount it on the ground instead. Fired up the fence post driller and drilled a fence post hole for the azalea fencing in the back corner and then the whole reason for doing this, the mast hole. I cut the pipe to go into another cut pipe and put the other pipe into the ground and back-filled the hole. The mast fit into it perfectly. Now I need to trim the tree next to the mast. Dinner was leftover Farfalle with Kale and some leftover spinach before running over to dance lessons on Friday night. Mitzi taught us cha cha. We did quite well learning to move sideways in the cha cha. I'm happy about this. We stayed for a half hour at the party. I got to dance the swing for a little with Erica before we left at 8:30.

~

March 16, 2013 practice

This morning I found a you tube video for the American cha cha which we were trying to do. The breakthrough came with the rock-step. By doing this our pattern came out correctly. We left for Francesca at the Met in HD at 11:30. I wasn't in the mood for this but it was an enjoyable afternoon. On the way home we stopped at Home Depot in Cary for #4 screws for the Flower Timer and then to BJ's for dishwasher soap

and ribs. dinner was ribs with salad and mixed veggies. We had a bottle of Shiraz with dinner.

~

March 17, 2013 bushes

I did the violet mobile path from MO to OH and sent it to Andrea. She said not to do anymore since Joe Bruns says he can easily do this with his software. That's OK with me. I went outside and trimmed the bushes around the new antenna and rearranged the down lead. I left the surplus wire coiled under the house. I need to add a lightning suppressor and a splitter so that the TV can have an FM antenna. I did a little branch cleanup in the backyard. I noticed two boys playing in the woods in our backyard. I looked into fencing and also some private property signs. Back in the house I mounted more of the circuit boards onto the plywood board. Now I need to hook up the Raspberry Pi serial lines and the LCD/RTC. Libbie made another of her wonderful pizzas but this time she put some of the tomato pieces into it. Wow, good. We continued to practice our ballroom cha cha. This time we added a side turn to the cha cha that we learned from You Tube.

~

March 18, 2013 Traviata

This morning I worked some more on mounting all the components in the key case for the flower timer. I punched a hole in the case front and mounted a 20x4 LCD and made up a ribbon cable to attach to the PCB pins for the backpack. I also hooked up a ribbon cable for the TX and Rx to the Raspberry Pi. This is an involved project. I'm not sure I'm going to like 3 power supplies - 7 volts for the Boarduino, 5 volts for Raspberry Pi and 28 VAC for the solenoids.

Joe pointed out that

the Palm Springs tram is available via coastal Visa points so I checked and bought 2 adult tram tickets. Good deal. They also have wax museum tickets available which I'll use once I figure out which day.

I worked on the violetmobile and got 2 more routes done. Now I need the Naples to Dolgeville route and I'm done.

Dinner was spaghetti then

we listened to Traviata live from the Met. I got an eMail from Vicki

that she'll be in town on April 18.

~

March 19, 2013 outdoors

After a small grocery run because we're leaving this Saturday, I worked outdoors. Got 4 more flagstones and 4 bags of pine bark mulch. Spread this stuff around and also fertilized the 3 new rose bushes from last year. For fertilizer I used the Ortho packets that came from the Pasadena rose parade post show. Finished the new fence post for the electric fence and transferred the electric wires to the post. The old post which was a landscape timber got tossed onto the brush pole. I learned a big lesson never to use landscape timbers as fence post. they don't last long in the ground. I finished up the software for the new flower timer but did not test it. Tax time is bearing down on us and we're leaving Saturday. I need to get serious about this stuff. I sent the last of the violet mobile movies to Andrea. Hopefully I'm done with this part. For dinner tonight I was going to make Panko crusted catfish but it was 6:30 and the fish needed to chill i buttermilk for 20 minutes and then bake for 30 minutes so instead Libbie made Briyani. We watched the DVR of Dancing with the Stars, first show of the new season. I didn't recognize any of the dances as ballroom.

~

March 20, 2013 right turns

I loaded up Turbo Tax today and started slogging my way through the taxes. My goal is completion before we leave for Palm Springs Saturday. I'm worried about how much we are going to have to pay. We left for ?Ballroom this afternoon at 3:15. Our lesson consisted of Foxtrot promenade and turns and then extensive turning in the waltz. The hardest part was the right turns. For dinner tonight we breaded the catfish with Panko crumbs and put some slap yo mamma on the fish and served it with peas and shiraz. The other FM antenna came today while we were out at ballroom. I didn't mess with it today. We listened to Otello live from the Met tonight. I did a little work on pictures and posted our pansy garden to Facebook today.

~

March 21, 2013 credit union

Libbie had a full house today with Nancy and Jack helping her with Violet planting. I continued with the tax work. I'm not sure if it's looking good or bad for our wallets. I'll probably end up paying somebody something. I spent some time assembling the antenna and putting it in the attic. I need some U-bolts and a matching transformer as well as an RG-6 splice to complete the job. We took a look at dishwashers in HH Gregg and then visited the Credit Union to look into the checking account for the convention. Not much luck. Dinner tonight was panko crusted Catfish again with shiraz, peas and mushrooms.

~

March 22, 2013 Waltz

We had to pack during the day today to leave tomorrow and dance tonight. I updated the Bluebird website which didn't get uploaded a few days ago. We had soup and tomato-cheese sandwich for dinner then went to ballroom at 7 PM. Erica helped us dance some waltz steps with right turns. To bed early for a 4 am wake up call.

~

March 23, 2013 travel

Left for the airport at 4:50 AM. Everything went smooth with the Park and Ride and our Airtran flight to Atlanta. I had a wonderful bulkhead seat. We landed in a thunderstorm in Atlanta, the terminal was closed for lightning endangering the ground crews so we had to wait on the plane on the tarmac. Our connection to LAX was delayed an hour because of the thunderstorm. Arrived at LAX at 1:20 instead of 12:30. We got a very nice white Toyota Corolla. Driving I-10 to Palm Springs was stop and go all the way, it took an extra hour. We finally got in at 5:30PM.

We met the family in Holly's room. She had a very nice suite poolside. We were back in Bldg 1 which was nice since it was adjacent to the lobby and convenient to everything. We took our car with the Guenthers to downtown where we parked on street. While at a

light we came across Joe and Christa on the sidewalk. Libbie tried calling but they didn't answer their cell phone. Bill found a table at the Pub in town which was very nice and next to the sidewalk. I ordered a veggie portabello burger with greens instead of fries. Very very good. I had a Sam Adams beer with the meal. We paid for four meals which included Joe and Christa. Joe and Christa are staying in the Quality Inn which Joe got for his Quality points.

~

March 24, 2013 wedding day

We went out early and photographed the sunrise on the mountains and palms which was beautiful. Went to McDonalds for breakfast before driving downtown for some sight seeing. Came back an hour or two later and toured the resort before meeting everyone in the lobby for breakfast. The family brunch was at 10 which was very nice. I had some french toast with bacon and fruit and a sweet roll. The coffee service was a little delayed but all went well anyway. This was our lunch for today.

Did a peek at the pool and enjoyed the many many bikinis laying around. This was a girl watchers dream. Wow. At noon we headed over to the Tram. Joe called us from the Tram and said it was 54 degrees at the top. I brought my Hoodie but didn't need it since I was OK in the sun. I loaned it to Katy, Peters friend since she only had a skimpy sun dress on. Katy is a lovely girl, very smart and with a can do anything demeanor. Got home and cleaned up for the wedding which I thought was at 5:30 but was at 6:00. It was outdoor in their wedding garden. We enjoyed the ceremony and were quite surprised at how religious it was. The party after was great. We had Prime rib from the carving station and a second plate of the turkey with cranberry sauce. I had too much wine. We did lots of dancing even though it wasn't a ballroom crowd. The rap music served at times for Foxtrot and Salsa. One of the bridesmaids came over to us and said we were amazing. We had a good time and helped close the place at midnight.

~

March 25, 2013 Happy 41

We went downtown to McDonalds for breakfast. Came over to Mary and Johns room for coffee and doughnuts and said goodbye to those traveling.

David and Noah are going to Utah for hiking. Sue and Bruce are hanging out in California for a while. Laura and Bob are going to stay over at LAX, Bill and Barb are going to Death Valley, and Holly and Darryl are staying in Palm Springs. Around 11 we checked out and made our way across the desert. Our first stop was Desert Springs where hot water is pumped out of the ground for Spa resorts. We got some good maps and info then headed to 29 Palms. We had lunch in Yucca Valley before going to the Joshua Tree visitors center to watch an intro movie. We met Mary and John in the visitors center then went into the park together and drove to Keys View making many stops along the way. It was an enjoyable afternoon. The 29 Palms Thai place was closed on Monday so we went to Joshua Tree for Thai. It was an enjoyable meal with Mary and John celebrating our anniversary. John brought a bottle of champagne along which made the occasion more festive. It was a great night. Our Holiday Inn Express in 29 Palms is brand new and quite nice.

~

March 26, 2013 Joshua

In the morning we met Mary and John at the visitor center and walked around the Oasis Mara which used to have water running out of the ground but not since 1947. Next we drove to skull rock and hiked the trail to the campground. This was quite nice, lots of native plants and beautiful rocks. Mary and John left us around noon. We all went to 29 palms and ate lunch at the Hamburger Carousel. I had a burger on a bun with thousand island sauce and fries. This was a unique restaurant. Good local diner food. We went back into the park and drove to the South end which was the cotton springs end. Due to road construction we had a 20 minute delay. Enjoyed the desert at the stop. Went down to a wash below the visitors center and enjoyed the wildflowers. I also discovered quite a bit of gold in the stream. We collected a baggy of rocks and took lots of pictures. For dinner we went to Rocky's NY Pizza in downtown. You order at a window and the lady brings the food to your table. We had some Red Trolley Ale with a large mushroom pizza.

~

March 27, 2013 opera

After breakfast we drove to Barkers Dam in the park. We enjoyed the mile

walk around looking at plants and shrubs and rock formations. Saw some Petroglyphs which had been vandalized. too bad. We drove out of the park approximately at noon heading down 29 palms highway. Stopped for lunch at McDonalds in Yucca Valley then looked for binoculars in Walmart but no luck. Found a Sports Authority on the way into LA and bought binoculars there. Made it to the Comfort Inn on sunset Blvd at 3 PM. We had a little rest before having Chicken Pad Thai at a Vegan Thai restaurant at 6 PM. Left for the Opera and took the 10 minute drive. The parking garage was almost full, we parked on level 8.

The Flying Dutchman was good, the scenery was awesome. I had a bothersome kid behind me talking and with a cell phone that went off several times. What a moron.

~

March 28, 2013 more opera

We had a leisurely morning. I bought wax museum tickets using our credit card points. At 9:30 we went over to the Disney and took the free audio tour. Spectacular building and facility. We parked under the Disney for \$9 and had a very nice lunch there. I had a portobello sandwich Panini. After lunch we drove down Wilshire to LACMA. Found a parking meter that took Visa cards. Enjoyed an installation of light poles and photographed a pretty girl posing with them. Visited the Tar Pits then back to the car to get to the hotel to clean u p for Cinderella tonight. We chose to eat on the plaza this time. Had a nice fountain side seat where we enjoyed wine and a Portabello sandwich. The bill was \$75 with tip. Wow. Cinderella was delightful. It was silly and whimsical. They had 6 mice who really added to the opera since they were such good actors. Our seats were in the balcony row c towards the center. The trip out at the end was pretty good - we are getting to know our way around.

~

March 29, 2013 Wax museum

This morning we made our way to Hollywood. We were very lucky and found on street parking near Madame Tusseauds Wax Museum. We used our Coastal credit card points for two admission vouchers. Normal price is \$27 and probably not worth it. We really liked the place. The statues

were high quality and well sculpted. The museum had 3 floors worth of very nice exhibits. I enjoyed the final room which was a how to of how they did each of the displays. There was also a counter where you can have your hand molded. We watched a young girl have a hand cast made in the ice water and hot wax. Didn't stay too long in the "education" room since nature was calling. Took care of business then walked down Hollywood Blvd a little wondering about the weird people. Stopped in front of Grumman's and admired a few hand prints before cutting through the Highlands center which was a pretty nice shopping mall on the Blvd. Started back in stop and go traffic on the 101 till we cleared downtown then slowed down again before the 605. Talked to Joe and he informed us that the 605 had many accidents so we got to the 710 and had clear sailing the rest of the way to Joe's place. Had lunch at Rubys on the end of the pier. It was very cold and windy but despite that there were many girls in tiny bikinis. Brrr. I had a turkey Chipotle burger with onion rings. For dinner we had lobster ravioli and leftover pizza.

~

March 30, 2013 wiring

Today after breakfast we studied Joe's garage wiring. Replaced the switches in the front foyer with white ones and correctly wired the switch to the front door. Next we cut the conduit and fittings to hook up the garage wiring into the power box outside. This went amazingly well. We stopped at this point for the day. For lunch we had slices off an Easter ham on Hawaiian Buns with tomato and Avocado. For dinner the 4 of us (Joe, Christa, Libbie and I) went to La Capilla for dinner. We each had a Margarita and I had the Camarones Rancheros which was shrimp in a tomato and onion sauce. Yummy.

~

March 31, 2013 dishwasher

Easter Sunday. This morning HH Gregg had a 15% off promo code which I used to purchase the Bosch dishwasher. Did not have the HH Gregg credit card so I used the Visa card. Not too bad since we get 2% more off with the card. Joe made a wonderful ham and egg breakfast. After

breakfast we did a little bit of exploratory work in the garage on the wiring. I didn't want to get dirty for the trip this afternoon.

We

went to the electric boat place for our 2 PM boat party where we met Craig, Debbie, Granny and Uncle as well as Corry, Darshale and their kids. With the food and wine we had a nice boating party on Newport harbor. When we got home I was too full for any more food but Joe was making do it yourself Calzones. I split one with Libbie which was quite bland since she only put spinach and cheese in it.

~

April 01, 2013 April fools

We enjoyed the Google Nose April fools joke. In the morning Libbie and I took advantage of our last day of nice weather and parked downtown near the Post Office and walked Main Street to the Pier and back. The scenery was very nice including a lady parking her car in a very skimpy bikini which showed off her butt cheeks. I worked with Joe today in his garage and we finished the garage wiring including a patch panel which has the light, the switch, the outdoor lights and some hot lines coming in. They bought a new motion sensor light for the front entrance which is set for dusk to dawn lighting. Dinner was restaurant lasagna and salad which Christa picked up from a local restaurant. Yummy.

~

April 02, 2013 non stop home

We got up at 4:30 for our 8:20 am flight. Christa and Joe were up, Joe even moved our rental car from across the street back into the driveway. Left his place at 5:05, arrived at LAX Enterprise Car lot at 5:45 which was good. The fuel gauge still said full so we cheated and didn't buy gas. We went smoothly through the rental shuttle, baggage check and TSA. I unfortunately bought two Muffin breakfasts at Sammys in the airport for \$18 for the two. Ugggh. American Air was having a promo of the inaugural flight and we got Krispy Kreme donuts and coffee and then a gift bag and finally cupcakes when we landed. This was too funny. It was great that the direct flight only took 4 hours and 8 minutes. After the Park and Ride shuttle we got our car washed

at the free car wash which was excellent. We stopped at Kroger for groceries and picked up a rotisserie chicken for dinner . It was nice to be home. Everything looks great.

~

April 03, 2013 return to dance

This is our first day home in almost two weeks. Libbie did a lot of packaging of orders that have accumulated. We had a pretty good dance class today. We did cha cha traveling to and fro as well as sideways. We also tried the waltz with turning right and left. Had a little trouble getting there because the Cary Parkway is closed and we got lost in Kildaire Farms. Dinner tonight was the rest of the rotisserie chicken with beans and potato salad.

~

April 04, 2013 Fast day one

It's a crummy rainy day. I finished the book today "The coincidence of Callie and Kayden". I really enjoyed it but the ending was so sad and there is no resolution. I spent some of the day downloading some new free ebooks and organizing the wedding pictures. This was a fast day. I'm going to fast on Monday and Thursday which means a 600 calorie regimen. Dinner was a nice salad covered with chicken fingers. I estimated the salad to be 300 calories. Combined with 100 calories for soup and a 200 calorie breakfast it was a good 600 calorie day. The opera this evening was the premiere of Julius Caesar. I didn't like it. HH Gregg finally sent me an eMail saying that the dishwasher was now available for pickup. I ordered it on Easter Sunday this past Sunday (today is Thursday) using an Easter 15% off promo code.

~

April 05, 2013 totals

I weighed myself this morning after the fast yesterday. Weight is 231 which is pretty good. I don't have a weight reading before the fast. I downloaded

the Credit Card totals for March and broke out the wedding then added back in the opera tickets and the airfare. The bottom line for the week was \$3661.35. Wow, this was an expensive vacation but a lot of fun.

Libbie was a little under the weather today. I went over to HH Gregg and picked up our new dishwasher. It took the rest of the day to hook it up. Wow, is it quiet. This was a good deal. \$699 list, \$636 on sale but with the Easter 15% promo code I got \$95 off. Delivery charge was \$79 but by hooking up the trailer I went over and picked it up for no delivery charge. Now to figure out what to do with the old one.

Dinner was two kinds of pasta with Turkey sausage and Parmesan and mozzarella cheese on top. Very Yummy. We went to the group lesson at 7:15 where we learned a little more rumba and cha cha with forward/reverse travel. Erica was our teacher. She's pretty darn cute and good.

~

April 06, 2013 Rheingold

Finished up the taxes but did not file yet. I want to look them over.

Spoke with Mary Corondan about an ad. She thought we needed to run one in the Austin Souvenir book. Listened to Rheingold from the Met this afternoon. I believe it's the part of their ring cycle. The Wagner Tubas were very prominent. I believe we were listening to artifacts from the satellite transmission that messed up the horns. Dinner was Salmon with Chutney sauce, brown rice and mixed veggies accompanied by a bottle of Shiraz. Yum!

~

April 07, 2013 taxes

Reviewed the taxes and submitted the Federal. Printed off the state ones because they wanted \$20 to eFile. I'll use a stamp. Had to write a \$175 check to the state. Took a walk around the back - Seagrove Park - today. Lovely day. Libbie made her wonderful pizza for dinner from a scratch made dough. Credit card bill closed yesterday at a record \$7200. Wow, it had the LA trip and plane tickets for Austin.

~

April 08, 2013 banking

This is another fast day. It seems to be easy although I'm tempted by fruit. In order to keep the calories off I'll stay away. Weight was 231 this morning. Not bad starting out at the beginning of a fast day.

In the PM Lib and I went to BB&T and got the AVSA 2014 Convention checking set up. It wasn't bad and I even got online banking setup and tried it at home. For fun I tried SMS messaging which worked since I got an alert. Dinner was tilapia with panko and slap your mama. Served with a side of salad. Yumm. Watched Dancing with the stars after dinner but beforehand JoAnn Hoover called with her tales of woe.

She's in the early stages of a divorce. It sounds like a similar situation with Sue a few years ago.

~

April 09, 2013 weight

Very Nice!!!! Weighed in at 229 this morning. This Fast Diet thing seems to be working pretty well. I went to Kroger for normal Tuesday groceries and picked up turkey and cheddar cheese as well as slaw and macaroni salad for lunch for the violet club. Sylvia gave an excellent presentation about trailers. I was pretty tired after the meeting. Dinner was lobster ravioli from Trader Joe.

~

April 10, 2013 dance

Weight was not so good today. We went to the Farmers Market and also to Wyatt Quarles. Looked at several packs of bedding plants. I'm afraid we're a little late with our planting. We planted seeds anyway today. We'll see what happens. Went dancing at 3:15 for our 3:30 lesson. We learned some fine points of cha cha progressive and tried mastering the waltz with right and left turns. Dinner was chicken with potatoes and beets as well one glass of Shiraz each.

~

April 11, 2013 fast again

Today is another fast day. I went out in the back and spent the majority of the morning cutting down the Oak tree leaning and hanging over the back yard. Unfortunately the tree came down in the Azalea patch. We had a few broken branches of Azalea and Camelia but nothing too serious. The pollen today is terrible but it's supposed to rain tonight. The tree was pretty big and wore me out. I went to Lowes to get a replacement fence post but did not install it because I was too tired. I'm leaving it for tomorrow. Dinner was panko catfish with baked potato and beets. The potato and beets were baked with olive oil in a pan. Nice. The Panko breading was the worst I ever had. Libbie said she used egg on the fish to hold the coating. This was awful and I don't know why. the breading had a creamy texture and I thought I could taste the egg. this was terrible since I'm trying to reduce calories not add them. After a few bites I gave the rest of my fish to Libbie.

~

April 12, 2013 Fence

I installed the fence posts for the electric fence today. Still need to hook up the wires and insulators. I wanted to copy a Pave article for judging tomorrow but Libbie wasn't very cooperative. I got tired of the piles of crap all over the house. We did not go to Dancing tonight, too tired and I was a little peeved. Dinner was the fish again with potato and beets and a single glass of Shiraz. Gathered up my judges handbook for Richmond for tomorrow as well as the judges ID card.

~

April 13, 2013 Judging

We left at 6:05 which wasn't enough time for getting to Richmond at 9 AM. Libbie needed a rest area break which killed our timing. Got to the Ginter Botanical garden after 9. We stopped into the judges room for breakfast and instructions then went into the Showroom for judging of the show. I had a lot of fun. Carol Vann and Susan Barbi were on

my panel which was good since I learned a lot as well. We had lunch in the Cafe where Libbie and I split a turkey and cranberry sandwich and had a cup of pepper and crab soup. Both were very very good. After judging we walked around the arboretum and thoroughly enjoyed the spring flowers and trees. It was a delightful afternoon. We left the arboretum by 3 PM and had no problem on the 3 hour drive home. I managed to round trip it on a single tank of gas in the Corolla. On the way home we stopped into Trader Joes for wine and a side for dinner. Dinner was ribs with baked beans and Trader Joe wine. I downloaded the cameras and put everything on the server. Our pictures came out pretty good.

~

April 14, 2013 Fencing

I finished up the fence wire today and trimmed the top of the fence posts with the chain saw. Started looking at how to write programs in B4A for the first class on Android. Steep learning curve. Dinner was Libs delicious pizza.

~

April 15, 2013 Android

Spent all day working on the Android program. I think I've learned a lot and am finally able to get the data base accessed and displaying entries on the screen. The next challenge is going to be the pictures.

I'm currently looking at how to package up the picture files for installation. Libbie put together a large order for 2 violet clubs and worked most of the morning. I helped with the labels and then helped her take the packages to the Post Office. We thought it would be worse than it was because today is tax day but it went smooth. Today is a fast day so dinner was a salad with grilled chicken overlay.

~

April 16, 2013 grow boxes

Did the normal groceries this morning. It's a nice day outside. The grow

boxes arrived. I assembled them on the back porch but did not set them up. Today dinner was BBQ on a bun with baked beans.

~

April 17, 2013 sink drain

The kitchen sink drain started leaking today. I went to home Depot and then Lowes to get parts to rebuild the drain. While I was there I also picked up a new hose and a box of Miracle Grow sprayer refills. this stuff is expensive. It's \$19 for 8 refills which is around 2.50 each. I hosed down the flower garden with Miracle Grow using the new hose. For dinner tonight we went out to La Cosina because we both worked so hard getting the house ready and we were both pretty tired.

~

April 18, 2013 vicki and bob

We cleaned the house up this morning. Libbie did most of the work and did a nice job cleaning up all the yellow pollen dust which is everywhere. I picked up chicken on sale for dinner tonight. Vicki arrived around noon. We had turkey sandwiches for dinner

~

April 19, 2013 pizza

This morning we went to the Farmers market and WRAL TV gardens. Afterwards we had sandwiches then walked around Seagrove. Libbie made some yummy pizza which we had with Merlot wine and listened to the top 100 of 1969.

~

April 20, 2013 back to normal

Vicki and Bob left this morning around 6:30. I got up early and went downstairs, Lib joined me a little while later. I worked outside and planted

the tomatoes and peppers and also got the grow boxes cleaned up so that I could plant into them. Worked a little on the Austin presentation. Dinner was leftover lemon chicken with Merlot.

~

April 21, 2013 computer

Stayed inside and did computer work all day. I wanted to go out but it was too cold to work outside. Temperature in the 50s. Brrr. Libbie made her excellent pizza again from scratch. She added Italian turkey sausage to the mix on the pizza.

~

April 22, 2013 fast again

This was a do nothing day. I worked on the MAAVS website and got the New Bern convention added. The task was to re-learn Drupal. I also fixed the Bluebird website. The inventory was updated and some of the outdated text was reworked, especially the Jessie Road address on the orders page. This was a fast day again so we ate light. Dinner was a salad and beets and potatoes broiled in olive oil. They are sure excellent.

~

April 23, 2013 229

My weight happily this morning was a good solid 229. This was in spite of missing the fast last Thursday and then consuming 3 bottles of wine with dinner on three consecutive nights. Need to cut that out. Did the groceries including a trip to Trader Joes. I saw the repair job on the Cary Parkway culvert fire. All 4 lanes are now open. Got the rototiller working and tilled a path from the existing brick walk to the fence gate. After raking and leveling I went to Home Depot and got 8 bags of sand. It won't be enough but that's all I could get in the car without stressing the springs too much. I'll spread this tomorrow and see how much more I need. Dinner was lemon chicken which is Angel Hair pasta, chicken, spices, lemon and spinach. Yummy. We had this

with a single glass of Shiraz.

~

April 24, 2013 Dance Again

I spread the sand today, leveled it nicely and with Libbie's help cut a piece of tarpaper which went over the sand. I moved about 50 bricks from under the house to hold the tarpaper down. We had a very good lesson with Robert today. We missed last week because he had to pick up his daughter. We met his daughter Atlanta who is a very nice High School girl. Today we added embellishments to our Foxtrot including a box step and various right/left turns. This is the last Wednesday of the month so it's Mariachi night at La Cosina. We enjoyed dinner around 6:30 at the restaurant. The Mariachi band included a female vocalist and was dressed in white with gold bullets down the side. We both ordered the Quesadilla La Cosina. I had two Yuengling drafts with mine. It was a very nice satisfying day.

~

April 25, 2013 bricks

Moved the remaining bricks from under the house onto the sidewalk and put them down. Next I got out the chainsaw and moved a lot of logs and cut down saplings to clear a path to the brick pile in the woods. Libbie filled my cart and I moved it to the sidewalk and dumped it. We took two cart loads of bricks out of the woods. This was a fast day so dinner was a salad with a chicken breast split between the two bowls. I surprisingly was OK with the fast although a tiny bit hungry.

~

April 26, 2013 Exhausting

This was a tiring day. I laid down the rest of the bricks then got out the rototiller and finished the path to the garden gate. Next I dug a trench next to the gate for two drainage pipes. The four inch pipes will drain rain water as well as serve as a conduit to carry power

and water for the garden. I was extremely tired. We did a trip to the Farmers Market for tomatoes and strawberries. We also picked up some perennials for the garden which included Begonias. The perennial garden is looking great. Libbie planted the purchases while I took a nap.

I needed the rest since I was having trouble catching my breath. I woke up refreshed. Today's blood pressure reading was 102 over 73 using the new device sent by Aetna. I was concerned by low blood pressure but the systolic number has to be less than 90 to be considered HypoTension which is low blood pressure. Dinner was leftover lemon chicken.

We went to dance today. the group lesson was very basic essentials and was taught by Atlanta. We stayed for the dance party which was fun but pretty tiring. I think we're improving but compared to others in the room, not so good.

~

April 27, 2013 Perfect

It's a perfect day outside. Blue sky and mild temperatures. I smoothed out the last of the sand, then cut some tarpaper and placed the remainder of the brick sidewalk. Libbie helped. She and I then went to Lowes to look at fencing to thwart the rabbit. There is a nice short fence which will block the critter and is attractive. We bought a 4 foot section with posts for \$20. It looks like it will do the job so we will go back to get more. Next task was to shovel several wheel barrows of compost onto the new bed next to the sidewalk and till it in. this was where I left the job for the day. We had a nice dinner at 6:30 at Tony's Oyster Bar in McGregor Village. Libbie was paying (\$251 with tip). The dinner party consisted of Coleman and Nancy, Joy and Rick, Jack and Barbara and us. Eight people, all volunteers in some way or another at Bluebird. I had blackened Tilapia which was topped with Oysters. Accompanying the meal was mashed potatoes and veggies.

~

April 28, 2013 fence

It was a rainy day but in spite of the rain Libbie and I went to Lowes and purchased \$300 worth of fencing to repel rabbits around the new bed along the walkway. I'm still not sure if this is going to be stable

enough with the DIY pound in the ground sleeves they provide. The posts then go into the sleeve. To me it doesn't look deep enough. I laid out a mason string to get a straight line and lined up the first fence which still may need more adjusting to account for the slope of the ground. Dinner was a Libbie pizza which she made from scratch because the dough in the freezer was frozen and she didn't remember to take it out earlier.

~

April 29, 2013 webcam

Another cloudy rainy day. I spent the morning indoors but in the afternoon I laid out the new fence even though the grass was incredibly wet.

There is an issue with the gate and where the walk is that I need a solution for. today is fast day monday so for dinner I had a salad and a piece of Sockeye Salmon from Kroger. The Salmon was .6 pounds which was around 4 ounces each. This is 192 calories. The web says about 48 calories per ounce. This is happiness. Breakfast was the usual 200 calorie cereal and milk while lunch was a 200 calorie bowl of soup.

I'm guessing my calorie total was 700 which is my upper limit. I finally got the Panasonic wireless cam going. Thanks to an app on Android I'm able to look at the cam on the tablet.

~

April 30, 2013 grow boxes

It was too yucky to work on the fence and grow boxes today so I mowed the lawn instead. Did the normal grocery run this morning. Dinner was angel hair pasta with chicken and Curry sauce. After dinner I messed around with the AVSA presentation again. I wanted to finish by May 1 but it doesn't look like it will happen.

~

May 01, 2013 May Day

This is a busy day. I started by working on the grow boxes in the mud. Spread out a landscape cloth and retrieved some cinder blocks from the

woods to level the boxes on the hillside. Next job was to work on the fencing endwall and the gate. I'm not happy with the stability of the gate. It's pretty shaky and holding it shut is a crappy plastic catch. Need to do better. I left this job unfinished. We went to dance at 3:30 where we had a fantastic lesson adding sparkle to the waltz. We added a single sparkle and a triple sparkle which was fun. We kept practicing until we almost got it. Robert was good tonight. Dinner was pork chops with a single glass of Shiraz, broccoli, and apple sauce. I previously had a bowl of salad but Libbie didn't want one. I love lettuce and carrots!!!! Rigoletto is live tonight. It's the final live broadcast of the season. Too bad!!!

~

May 02, 2013 Pleasant Surprise

I got on the scale this morning and was pleasantly surprised that my weight was down to 227. I didn't think it possible after a dinner of pork chops, wine and assorted veggies last night. This is a good deal!!!

It's darn cold this morning. I went to Lowes and picked up the last piece of fencing and a couple of posts to mount it. I'm still not happy with the gate, it seems to be flimsy. I picked up a piece of u channel fence post to try to stiffen it. The other option is a length of greenhouse pipe driven into the ground, possibly even cemented. In the PM I planted the Morning Glories while Libbie put in the package of sunflower seeds that we bought a while back. I picked up some catfish from Kroger on sale for 4.99. It was one pound exactly for 2 filets. We had the catfish with a Panko bread coating baked in the oven using a Cooking Light recipe and also a salad. This is another fast day.

~

May 03, 2013 down

After yesterdays fast but with a healthy fish dinner last night I was pleasantly surprised by the scale this morning. I weighed in at 226.5
Woo

Hoo!

We did a huge shopping trip today. From AgriSupply we got a rain gauge. Next stop was Wyatt Quarles for bird food and potting

soil. Then we went to the Farmers Market. After purchasing tomatoes and strawberries we went to the end for Dwarf Lantana and Lavender in one gallon pots.

Next stop was the Asian Market for mushrooms, Bok choy and sprouts then Staples to use a \$10 gift card they sent us. We purchased envelopes and multi colored pens at Staples. Stopped in next door to Trader Joes for wine and fruit then home. I mixed up 2 gallons of roundup and did the grass along the new fence as well as the path through the woods to the back. Wow, I was tired.

We had a nice dinner of pork chops, broccoli, apple sauce and salad. This went with a glass of Shiraz.

In the evening we went over to Carolina Ballroom and danced for an hour. We were in bad shape, had trouble with a lot of dances.

~

May 04, 2013 irises

I did some research on weather stations. I have decided to add a Raspberry Pi with WeeWx to my mix of web based electronics. Not sure of what instrument package to use. I may go the homebrew route and write an interface to WeeWx but the easiest thing may be to get a Davis and a weatherlink interface. At noon we went to Crabtree to see the Iris show. It's been a while since we visited crabtree. Bought a microplane in Williams Sonoma. I was amazed at the number of high end restaurants outside the mall. I finished up the fence today and planted the Lavender along the outside. Dinner was Bok Choy with a bottle of Shiraz and strawberry shortcake. Yummy.

~

May 05, 2013 android

It's still cold today. We worked in the yard planting 3 new bush Lantana next to the sidewalk and also the two remaining Lavenders. I also put down some more landscape cloth around the new grow boxes. short and sweet, that summarized our outdoor activity today. I got a second Raspberry Pi running the Squeezeplug software with the new C-Media USB sound cards that arrived from Amazon yesterday. This one will be

in my office hooked to the stereo. I'm pretty happy with the system. Libbie wants one now but I'm running out of Raspberry Pis. I probably need to order some more from Element 14. I worked some more on the violet viewer software for Android. I had to remember how this is done. I learned about sdcard memory in the emulator and how to preload jpg images. This is for the storage for First Class. Dinner was Libbies super pizza. I put some shitake mushrooms on mine which were excellent.

~

May 06, 2013 violet viewer

Worked the whole day on the Violet viewer software. This was great, Libbie was occupied downstairs with packing violets with Jack and Joy while I listened to Opera in my office and learned quite a bit about how Basic for android works. I got a rudimentary system up and running from an SQL database, retrieving data and displaying pictures. Yeah!!!!

Dinner

was leftover Bok Choy which was great since this is a fast day. My weight is at 226 and holding which is around 10 down from my physical on Feb 7.

~

May 07, 2013 viewer

Got FTP working on my Android so I used it to download 100 violet pictures from Traviata for display in the Violet Viewer program. In the afternoon I worked in the garden transplanting the squash and cucumbers and running the garden hose to the new boxes but I still need to build a header to combine the hoses and hook them to a source of water.

Dinner was angel hair pasta with tomato sauce and parmesan over the top. Very nice.

~

May 08, 2013 tablet

This was a pretty good day as most of the work I did for the Android version

of First Class is now working including the addition of several thousand pictures to the tablet via FTP. I still don't have a reliable FTP program working so I sued one from the marketplace. Robert was sick so dance lesson was canceled for today. Dinner was salmon, broccoli and a glass of Shiraz.

~

May 09, 2013 dance

I put connectors on all the hoses and bought an additional manifold for the new grow boxes. All is now hooked up. I bought 4 bags of bark and spread 3 of them around where I dug up trenches for drainage pipes.

We had a really heavy rain last night and the good news is the new drain swallowed it all. After a dinner of salad with chicken breast in it we went to a Foxtrot progressive class. Erica was the instructor.

We had not seen her in 2 weeks and so thought she was gone. The class was quite good and we learned quite a bit stringing patterns together.

~

May 10, 2013 weather station

The Weather Station will arrive today. I found the cornice boards where I want to mount it are rotted. Removed the boards and picked up a PVC 1x4 from Home Depot as a replacement. The 1x4's went up without much trouble but involved many trips up and down to the roof which was tiring. I mounted a 1.5 inch PVC pipe as the mast. Late in the PM the Weather Station arrived. I assembled it on the back porch and went back on the roof one more time to mount it on the PVC pipe. I setup the console on the back porch and was pleasantly surprised at how good the communication link is to the instrument suite. I eventually put the console in my office and mounted the usb logger inside. I also had to run to Kroger to get 3 C cell batteries for the console. The AC power cube will power the thing but it needs the C Cells for backup power. I'm having trouble getting the logger to work. Dinner was chicken with roasted veggies and a single glass of Shiraz.

~

May 11, 2013 nice day

Weighed myself this morning and was pleasantly surprised at 224.5

This

morning I got the weather console successfully uploading to Wunderground.

Went outside this morning and tilled the new garden next to the sidewalk. Libbie planted geraniums in this one inside the new fence.

Last year a rabbit ate all our geraniums so this year we installed the fence to keep rabbits out. Next I went on the roof and caulked the new cornice boards and painted it all with the Historic Tan house paint. this went extremely well. It's a clear sunny day today. I noticed the wind speed is a little lower than the one at Surrey Point.

This very likely is due to the shielding effect we get from the surrounding trees. After painting and tilling I was wiped out today. Took a long nap after the last opera of the season, Gotterdamerung. We went to Kroger in the afternoon during the opera and found a large wine tasting party going on. We got full plates of ribs, beans, horsd'oeuvres and cake. Wow, what a surprise. We picked up some Sockeye Salmon which we had with Broccoli and Shiraz.

~

May 12, 2013 fertilizer

This was an easy day. The weather station continues to function well.

Libbie and I fertilized the garden with Miracle Grow liquid. As usual, I mixed a whole replacement bag of fertilizer into the liquid container.

We did the entire flower garden but not the geraniums. Libbie hit the geraniums with Osmocote then we watered them in.

I spent a

lot of time on the computer reading about weather software. My favorite is WeeWx but it's Linux based so I may employ a Raspberry Pi to do the job. I also did a lot of Oregon trip planning. Staying at the airport and not renting a car looks like the best way to go. I reserved a room at the Country Suites Airport but found a better hotel for \$100 more. The Marriott residence Inn is \$100 more for 2 nights but has a train platform in their parking lot. Libbie made her great pizza again. this time it was extra good because she put all the leftover tomato pieces in from the week. This afternoon we took a late afternoon walk through Seagrove Farms. It's a gorgeous spring day with the temperature in the seventies and very low humidity.

~

May 13, 2013 guest

We did a little cleanup today. I bought two more bags of bark and spread them around the geraniums. I also tightened the shade cloth on the greenhouse. Sheila came over at 5:00 today. We enjoyed her company for dinner which was BB chicken, mixed veggies, salad and strawberry shortcake for desert. Even though it was a fast day I had the full dinner since we had guests.

~

May 14, 2013 New Bern

Sheila gets up at 4:40. We don't get up until 6. We left for New Bern just before 9 and arrived around 11. It was a pleasant day for a drive. BARb taught us about Streps and showed us her plant room. We had a very nice lunch of homemade bread, chicken salad and fruit salad. Desert was a cookie. We got back home around 5:15. For dinner we went out to La Cosina where we had Quesadilla La Cosina with a Yuengling draft. Very good. We did our Tuesday groceries after dinner which worked well.

~

May 15, 2013 dance

Spread the other bag of bark around the geraniums. The weather station continues to work well. Tried to water the flower garden since it's so hot today. Had some problems figuring out the timer wiring. This needs a complete rework and labeling. Went to our dance class at 3:30 which was excellent. Robert practiced the Foxtrot with us giving us tips on form. We also worked on our twinkles and bigger steps for the foxtrot but still keeping in time with the music. We thought this was a very good lesson. After dance we went to Trader Joes for some supplies. Dinner was chicken, pasta and curry sauce. We also had a very nice salad with the meal.

~

May 16, 2013 swing

Worked in the garden running a water line for the geraniums. Ran to Home Depot for sprinkler parts and another solenoid which we need for the geranium zone. I also bought some cable markers so we could identify the various wires in the timer box. this is a mess. Today is a fast day so I ate lightly for lunch, an Avocado, tomato sandwich and then a big salad with tuna in it for the protein. We went to the group foundations class to learn swing with Erica. The class was great since we learned quite a few new patterns for the swing.

~

May 17, 2013 sprinklers

I worked on the sprinklers today. Picked up some glue at Lowes as well as a new UV tube for the fish pond. Tried changing that first but no go. The light flashed briefly but did not come on. Will remove the UV assembly and check the contacts. Wired up the geranium garden and manually turned the sprinklers on to check the aiming. It wasn't too bad but needs a little adjustment. I need some 6 inch long cable ties.

I'm using the cable numbers from Home Depot. I used these to label all the solenoids which was great. We picked up a salmon at Krogers and while there we noticed that Lobster tail was on sale so I picked up 2 of those as well. On this Kroger run we took both cars and filled up on gas using our points. It turns out both cards are really linked so our purchases are counting towards gas. Dinner was salmon and a nice salad with onion, lettuce, carrots, cucumber, snow peas and sunflower seeds. We went to dance at 8 PM and were both tired but had fun. It's amazing how many steps we have forgotten. Repetition and practice is the answer. We stayed under almost 9 before heading home.

~

May 18, 2013 rain

While tying the tomatoes it started to sprinkle. We ended up getting .24 inches is this sprinkle. It was fun watching the weather station record

the precipitation. I also did the soldering and heat shrink of the wires for the newest solenoid, the one that waters the Geranium garden. We did a trip to Walmsrt, mainly to get socks and underwear for me and some shorts for Libbie. We spent \$85 which was surprising. I managed to find a Class 4 SanDisk SD card for my Nook Color and some cable ties which turned out to be indoors only as well as a 6 gang outlet for the porch. I purchased an Android for Nook image for my Nook Color and installed it. It makes the Nook Color more responsive since it is running Android 4.1, Jelly Bean. I like it. It's still not as responsive as the Nexus 7. Dinner was Lobster tails with peas and a super salad consisting of lettuce, carrots, cucumber, snow peas and Vidalia. We had this with the rest of the French Merlot-Cabernet blend, about 1 1/3 glass.

~

May 19, 2013 help files

I got all the solenoid wiring documented today. It took a while, almost all day on and off. I made up a map for the timers, assigning solenoids to the relay channels. I wish the 8 channel timer was in operation. It has not been tested yet. I modified the B4A Help program to display Violet topics. I'm using maavs.org to host the html files that are displayed by the app. It was a rainy day all day today. While on the backporch we saw the new family, Jenny & Mark and 3 kids walking around by the creek. The moved into the Porter's house on Friday. Libbie made her wonderful pizza, this time with fresh garden basil and tomato chunks. After dinner I watched the Billboard awards which were mildly entertaining.

~

May 20, 2013 Nothing

Another light eating day. The morning started out still rainy. We got over 2 inches of rain over the weekend as reported by the new weather station. For dinner we went and picked up a tilapia on sale. We had it with Panko bread crumbs and a nice salad. This was a good light dinner. We watched the finals of Dancing with the Stars. Kellie and Zandaya seem to be in the lead. We have not watched it much all season.

~

May 21, 2013 website

Did the normal grocery run. Libbie is not doing well today. I documented all of the wiring for the irrigation relays. Didn't do a whole lot of anything else today. Had a one hour talk with John Carter about the AVSA website. He gave me some credentials to let me try using the Rose society website to host AVSA. I'll give it a try. Dinner was a bean burger with Vidalia and BBQ sauce.

~

May 22, 2013 website and 2 step

I had to call John Carter to get the website credentials again. I got the password wrong over the phone. After getting the correct password I was able to get into the site. Uploaded all the files. It didn't work, lots of various errors. Links didn't work, the css files weren't read, etc. Dinner tonight was spaghetti with tomato sauce and parmesan cheese sprinkled over the op.

~

May 23, 2013 web site

John forwarded to me a pretty good rant about the website which has depressed me a little today. He called nothing but a tarted up version.

It is certainly more than that. I worked with John's Rose Society web site all morning then finally gave up and purchased my own account. I had a little more success with loading the files but still can't make the links work. There's something wrong with the permissions but i don't know what. This is a work in progress. The good news is they charge monthly so it will only cost \$10 per month and I can cancel up to June 23rd and only be charged for one month.

I went out to Harris

Teeter today and bought cookies and Salmon. Libbie served the cookies to Jack, Joy and Nancy who were all working upstairs on the violets.

Dinner tonight was a salad and Salmon.

~

May 24, 2013 Dance

This is a getting ready for the final stretch day. We leave for Austin Monday morning. I tied up the tomatoes in the garden and mowed the back yard. In the afternoon we went to the Farmers Market and bought a Dogwood Tree as well as our veggies and strawberries. We had a nice dinner of shrimp & "peelers" with beets and potatoes. My weight has finally come down a little more, down to 122.5 lbs. Yes!!!

This

twice a week fast diet seems to be working. We had the shrimp with a nice red blend from California. In the evening we went to the Friday night dance party and stayed till 9. We had fun but found we forgot a lot of the steps. Came home at quarter after 9 and had strawberry shortcake. The strawberries were from the Farmers Market and Libbie made the shortcake fresh this afternoon.

~

May 25, 2013 newavsa

Lots of last minute activity. Went to the greenhouse to get a steel pipe and ended up hacking back the holly bushes around the entrance. Installed the pipe at home and ran a strand of wire across the top of the new lower fence to make it higher against a deer invasion. I don't think it will work. Updated the Violet site with the new inventory and also ended up getting a new hosting account with host gator to move newavsa. I'm still not sure why we are doing this. Dinner was Kroger ribs with baked potato and beets. We finished the mixed blend wine from last night and then had a glass from the Shiraz.

~

May 26, 2013 last minute.

More last minute packing and arranging. We leave tomorrow morning. I tried reprogramming the irrigation timers but it didn't work out. The program kept crashing. I'm really disappointed. Libbie made her outstanding pizza again with tomato and fresh basil. Yumm.

~

May 27, 2013 flight

We left the house today at 8:15 for our 10:20 flight. We had lots of time and a very smooth flight. I was reading most of the flight. We got the exit row to Houston, a cramped seat for the short flight to Austin. We had a turkey sub in Houston since we had almost 2 hours on the ground. We greeted quite a few people and then went out to the County Line for ribs and beer. Our group was KATHY Lahti, Barb and Bruce Miller, Kathy Bell, Susan Anderson and her Mother and a young person named Candace from Arizona. We had a very nice time. When we landed we found the GPS cord didn't fit because it was the Verizon cord. We navigated by printed map which wasn't too bad.

~

May 28, 2013 Wildflowers.

Today was our day for the wildflower garden. we questioned how far down we were on Loop 1 but eventually we saw a sign and found the garden. It was spectacular and we really enjoyed it. After a morning in the garden and a veggie sandwich for lunch,, we went to the LBJ Library in Austin. Admission was free and we really enjoyed seeing all the accomplishments of a truly great president. We left in rush hour traffic and creep-ed along on Loop 1 to get back. At the hotel we met more AVSA people and then went across the street to Pokey Joes for a BBQ dinner. After a nice dinner of ribs and beer we went out looking for the Walgreens. Couldn't find it but we did locate the McDonalds which will be our breakfast choice in the morning.

~

May 29, 2013 Board Meeting

We went out to McDonalds for breakfast this morning. We met Anne and Richard in the hotel plaza having breakfast and then went to the board meeting at 9. It was pretty terrible, Winston made inappropriate comments towards me and also the AVSA employees who are only invited guests

stood up to speak which was inappropriate.

We had lunch over at

Zoes Kitchen where I had a turkey sandwich which was excellent. Afterwards we went to an Internet Committee meeting which was a waste of time. It was just Winston trying to show how Plone was. For dinner at night we went out to Pokey Joes across from the hotel. I had ribs with cornbread, potato salad, beans and a Lone Star beer. What a day.

~

May 30, 2013 photos

After a breakfast at McDonalds where Janet came along with us, Andrea and I set up the presentation at a little AFTER 10 FOR OUR 10:30 talk. It went really well, we had a lot of positive comments from the audience. It was satisfying. For lunch it was Zoes kitchen again where I had a turkey sandwich. We did the photography during the afternoon into the evening. It really went well. I hope we got good pictures.

In the evening we went to the Broken Spoke but found the live music didn't start until 9:30 so we drove to the County Line BBQ where we had a really nice dinner of BBQ ribs with the sides and a bottle of Lonestar.

At 9:30 we went to the Broken Spoke. We entered via the back door and avoided the \$7 cover charge.

~

May 31, 2013 boat tour

Once again I did some miscellaneous photography of the show trying to catch plants I missed. I attended Brenda's presentation of species which was excellent. I can tell she is a teacher. We had to get ready to get on the bus at 5 for the bat cruise and dinner. I wasn't too interested in Bats. They were interesting but seeing the skyline was more interesting as well as being on the lake with friends. The lake is Lady Bird Town lake in Austin and fronts the skyline. Dinner was a Fajita buffet. We sat with Bruce and Barbara Miller, Bonnie and Andrea, Beverly Powers and a lady named Cynthia from Panama. After the cruise the bus gave us a nighttime tour of Austin which included the Texas State Capitol lit up at night which was pretty spectacular.

~

June 01, 2013 Presentations.

This morning I photographed Strops and then we helped run the Nashville fund raising table until we went to the Nicholas presentation at 1 PM. Anne and Richard gave a wonderful and smoothly running presentation of how they grow the big plants and the small. After the Nicholas presentation we went to the annual members meeting and sat through that.

Next was the showroom breakdown where Libbie collected a lot of leaves before getting cleaned up for dinner. Social hour was at 5 PM and dinner at 6 which caught some by surprise because it was earlier than usual. We enjoyed sitting with Teri Post and husband, Laurene and Walker, Randy Duesch and wife and a lady from Syracuse. Dinner was bowtie pasta with chicken strips and a chipotle sauce. I thought it was tasty and had 2 glasses of Cabernet with dinner.

~

June 02, 2013 Fly Home

We accidentally got up at 4 AM because my Tablet was on East Coast time and we were in Austin on Central time! I reset the tablet and actually fell back to sleep before we were awoken again at 5 AM. We promptly got ready, checked out of the Marriott Renaissance and got on our way in a light rain which got heavier with thunder and lightning as we reached the airport. We had to make a run for it from the rental car lot to the terminal in a steady downpour. Once through security we looked for breakfast and found a Tex-Mex place selling bacon, egg and cheese tacos for \$3.50 for two. Our plane left 30 minutes late but made up a lot of the time on the way to Nashville. The flight from Nashville was choppy and then pretty rough as we crossed the mountains but was very smooth when we got to the other side of the mountains. We got in early which was nice, 12:09 instead of 12:35 noon. It had not rained all week so I did some manual watering using the irrigation timer of both flower gardens. Dinner was a La Cocina Quasadilla La Cocina with a Yuengling draft. I was tired and fell asleep on the floor catching up on my computer.

~

June 03, 2013 Home

It was hard getting up this morning on East Coast time. I felt like sleeping in. Total rainfall was .31 inches as measured by the weather station. This is not much since it hasn't rained all week. Did a lot of unpacking and organizing. Dinner was an avocado sandwich which was also our lunch. Today is a light eating day.

~

June 04, 2013 Begin Open Sprinkler

This morning I went to the grocery store right away then started getting a Raspberry Pi ready to host the Open Sprinkler project. I ordered the hardware to do this and started setting up the software. Really learning a lot about Linux and Pi stuff. Had to go back to Kroger to get my prescription which I forgot to pick up. Dinner was spaghetti with cheese sprinkled on.

~

June 05, 2013 Open Sprinkler

This morning I played around some more trying to configure the Open Sprinkler program on the Pi. I learned a few things. There is this concept of reserved IP addresses maintained by the router. It will assign the same IP to a specific MAC address when encountered. this saves having to get a static IP and all the fuss that doing this entails. In the afternoon we went to our ballroom lesson. I was very happy with the stuff we learned. Today we focused on the swing, specifically on the Swing. I learned to swing wider, we learned some turns and the cuddle. Very good. After dance we went to Trader joes for provisions. dinner was Briyani. We talked about us doing staging tonight for Nashville AVSA. I would like to use the Grand Old Opry and some LED's synchronized with music.

~

June 06, 2013 Andrea

Went online this morning and transferred some money from Scottrade into the bank account and paid the condo fee for this quarter. Worked on the garden today. The tomatoes look great and need tying. There are some squash almost ready and a cucumber almost ready. Discovered one hot pepper on the pepper plants. Nice. Deadheaded the roses then came inside. supposed to get a lot of rain tonight and tomorrow as Andrea blows through.

The rain really came down around 5 PM today. When it let up we had salmon with broccoli and a salad. Then we went to a group hustle lesson. It was my first time for the hustle and I think it went well. There were 2 other couples, the Terry and Harry from Cary pair and Shaun and Monica who seemed to be new.

~

June 07, 2013 rain

It's a wet one. We recorded 5.2 inches of rain in this storm. The backyard was under water for a while and quite a bit of our mulch washed away. I'll need to pick up a few more bags in Home Depot. I tried the Occidentalis version of Raspberry Pi operating systems but the Open Sprinkler demo program didn't run so I set up a brand new SD card with wheezy and successfully installed Open Sprinkler. I also was able to document the procedure. We planned to have a salmon dinner before dancing but as the salmon was coming off the grill we got a call from Caroline that the power is out at Carolina Ballroom and they were canceling the dance party. We wanted to practice our hustle at the party!!! This afternoon I registered with the Town of Cary and then registered for Kim's sculpting class which starts this Thursday at 6:30 PM. The salmon dinner this evening was accompanied by broccoli, salad and a glass of Shiraz.

~

June 08, 2013 clean up

We went to Home Depot and bought 6 bags of replacement mulch. Libbie and I spread it around in the garden. I continued to work on adapting the demo interval software for the Raspberry Pi. I also used the blower and cleaned out the garage and the driveway. It's been a while since

this was cleaned up. Dinner was Kroger ribs with broccoli and Malbac.

~

June 09, 2013 sprinklers

Went out to Kroger to pick up bread for lunch. Checked the mailbox on the way back in and discovered the Saturday mail was there, today is Sunday but I didn't get to the mailbox yesterday. The Open Sprinkler Pi circuit board arrived. I spent some time hooking up a Raspberry Pi in the plastic case. I'm impressed with the quality of the case. The Pi mounts right inside. I'm not thrilled with the Triacs hooked directly to the solenoids without any transient protection. I got a lot of customization done to the home screen and am pretty happy with the result. this also gave me a better understanding of the program. The program is buggy and could use a good rewrite. Libbie made her pizza again but this time with fresh basil. I watched the Tony's after dinner and enjoyed the performances. they were quite good.

~

June 10, 2013 OSPi

This morning I belatedly checked Libbie into her Southwest flights tomorrow. Check-in started at 11 AM but we did it at 11:05. I also found she had a missing 'B' in her last name. Libbie called and had Southwest correct the ticket since TSA may catch it. I spent the day playing with a Jason script to make the Open Sprinkler page more attractive. I picked up some Salmon for 3.99 per pound at Krogers that Libbie cooked for dinner. The fish was under-cooked and didn't sit well with my stomach. I'm having stomach craps. Don't know what's going on there.

~

June 11, 2013 Raspbian

Took Lib to the airport at 9:30 for her 11:00 flight. I prepared a second version of Raspbian with the OSPi software since the one I modified had problems. The new version, which is stock, works flawlessly. Did the Tuesday groceries and picked up a box of fried chicken which

I had for both lunch and dinner. Unfortunately, I also picked up some Southern hospitality Bluebell ice cream which I had for desert. I need to stop eating this stuff!!!

~

June 12, 2013 ethernet

Crimped an ethernet connector on the porch cable then went under the house and traced the wire from the porch. I found that it went up into the closet. Found the cable in the closet and attached an RJ45 carefully.

Plugged it into the router and hooked up the Open Sprinkler Pi to the outdoor cable. Nicely the device showed up on the LAN. The cable worked the first time!!!! Southwest is having an airfare sale with attractive fares to San Antonio. The sale ends tomorrow. I may do it. Went to Carolina ballroom. Atlanta was supposed to be my partner but of course Robert forgot and there was no partner. I am rescheduled for tomorrow at 4:15. Dinner was leftover fried chicken from the other day.

~

June 13, 2013 sculpting

Got the timer wired up on the porch and tested it with the manual software. It works!!!! This is happiness. The software interface needs help but other than that I like it. I had a really nice time with Erica this afternoon on the dance floor. She taught me about leading for the waltz and foxtrot. She's a patient girl. I'm going to miss her when she goes off to college. Came home and had a quick avocado sandwich before I had to leave for sculpture. At 6 the sky darkened and the winds were really severe so I waited out the line of storms before leaving for sculpture. Kim's class at the art center of Cary was pretty nice. She's a really nice teacher. Our ballerina is Abby. This is my first sculpture of someone in clothes. One of the ladies in our group said the same thing. After class I helped Kim put the modeling stand away. During the class I got really nauseous. Took a break, got a drink of water and sat down for a while.

~

June 14, 2013 weight

Weight this morning was wonderful. I'm down to 220.5. Just a little more to break into the teens!!! After the horrible storm last night it's a beautiful day! Wrapped up the timer project on the porch, now I need to pick up all the tools and work on software. Did a watering of the greenhouse overhead as well as the furnace waterer. Dinner was a beanburger with lettuce and slice of vidalia.

~

June 15, 2013 ribs

Finally got around to blowing the driveway off of the storm debris. I also noticed the tomatoes are wilted so I turned the grow box watering on. This needs a rework since the tomatoes need more water than the peppers do yet they are on the same water hose. Worked on the Flower Timer software trying to figure out how the program is stored. This is going to be difficult. For lunch I made a beanburger with a vidallia. For dinner I went to Krogers and picked up a rack of ribs from the hot case in the deli department. I also had some mango sherbet with dinner as well as baked beans.

~

June 16, 2013 walk

After the morning News shows I had a long chat with Libbie about everything. Told her about Rosenkavalier playing on the Met Sirius/XM channel at this moment. Previously when the waltz music was playing I practiced my waltz doing the turns and moving fast from one end of the room to the other. Fun and a good learning experience. Can't wait to try it out for real. I used a container of Miracle Grow and sprayed the flower garden today. I was thinking of doing this tomorrow on the geranium garden as well tomorrow. I walked in the back today around Seagroves pond then went across Downing Place and talked to Charlie. Surprisingly he was working in the woods cleaning up a tree that fell on their crepe myrtle. I installed the Adafruit webide this afternoon but then discovered I really need java/jason rather than python. Oh well, I know have a web ide to debug python code. I picked up a nice

cucumber from my garden and had half of it in a salad tonight which accompanied the last of the rack of ribs from yesterday. Yummy. Probably too much food but tomorrow is my fast day.

~

June 17, 2013 light day

I'm still trying to figure the variables out in the Open Sprinkler program. I discovered another version of the program with logging so I set up another Pi with the new OSPi software and tried fooling around with it. Didn't have much luck with the logging. Outside I tied up the tomato plants which are really getting tall. Lunch was an avocado sandwich and dinner was a bean burger and a salad. This is a light eating day.

~

June 18, 2013 free turkey

I worked on variables for my open source sprinkler. I'm trying to get the vars passed from module to module but with no success. Most likely this is because I don't understand how Python and Jason scripts work. Left for the airport at 10:45 and stopped by the Honeybaked store in Crossroads to get the free turkey slices from the GMA offer. We had the turkey for lunch, it was quite good. Lib's plane was on time and we got back home around noon. For dinner this evening we had the turkey sandwiches again. The turkey has a honey glaze which is sweet and very good. I had this with a cucumber in a sour cream and vinegar salad.

~

June 19, 2013 pasta

The upstairs phone line is also out now. Spent the morning trying to debug the downstairs phone. I found the wall jack is intermittent. Went to Home Depot in the evening after dinner and bought a new wall jack as well as Black Flag fogging liquid. I used the stuff in the yard to smoke mosquitoes. It works great on shrubs and taller items but

not for low lying grasses like Mondo grass. Dinner was angel hair spaghetti. This afternoon we returned to the ballroom after an absence last week. We are getting pretty good, Robert said I should get ballroom shoes with felt bottoms. I'm not sure about this.

~

June 20, 2013 sculpting

This is a light day. I'm still trying to understand the Open Sprinkler stuff. Installed the Web2Py framework to run some tutorials. We went to the Farmers Market but I was limited because it was a light eating day. We bought our first corn and first peaches of the season. Dinner was the corn and some chicken strips before sculpting. I left a little late, about 6:15 but still did alright. Libbie stopped in to see the sculpture tonight after attending the dance class at Carolina Ballroom. I came home around 10 PM, Libbie was still up downstairs. I was glad she stopped by to see the sculpting. She had not been at any of the sculpture sessions prior to this.

~

June 21, 2013 Busy again

Tried to debug the phone line today but kept getting interruptions. After a quick dinner of salmon with corn we went to the ballroom dance party. We stayed for an hour and had trouble with our turns. I need to ask Robert about how this happens in the rumba.

~

June 22, 2013 busy

What a busy day! I started out debugging the telephone. There is a short in the line going upstairs and it has been frustrating tracking it down. Around noon I decided there is only a week left before we leave for Toronto. With Libbie's help we tackled the shed putting a bunch of stuff on Craigslist and eBay. We had a parade of people all day picking up stuff, mostly for free. I need to pack up the wizards and lens for ebay purchasers. Amazing. The shed looks good. I may have

a helper for removing the greenhouse and hauling it to the scrap yard. A guy picked up the satellite dish for selling as scrap. Libbie mentioned that they may be able to help us with the greenhouse. Dinner was ribs, cucumber and corn from the farmers market. We had dinner with a glass of Shiraz and Bluebell for desert. The AVSA minutes came today which I signed and put into a stamped for Mary Corondon who is the next in line to receive these.

~

June 23, 2013 bench buster

This morning I went out to the greenhouse and pumped up the tractor tire so Libbie could mow and I also started taking off more bench tops and moving them to the back door. Next I took the sledge hammer and the crowbar and started disassembling 2 of the benches. Completely took one down and I'm half way through the second before breaking for lunch. Much still needs to be done. Came home and had a tuna lunch then started working on the newest sprinkler which is over the Irises. Turned the geranium watering on for 15 minutes and as expected, it started raining about an hour later. We got a total of .31 inches of rain. Libbie made her yummy pizza again for dinner.

~

June 24, 2013 greenhouse

Did some more bench busting at the greenhouse. It's really hot in there. It felt cool outside but it was 87. This was cool compared to inside the greenhouse. Really exhausted myself on the bench work. Came home and had a couple of peaches for lunch. As I was getting cleaned up Libbie took a phone call for a person looking at my Craigslist saw. He took it for \$35 which was a great deal for him. The shed looks so empty now. Dinner was Curry Chicken.

~

June 25, 2013 benches

More of the same. Took apart 2 more benches but one of them was only 4

feet wide and only about 48 feet long. I still came home very tired.

Did the grocery thing and had a couple of plums for lunch.

Dinner

was BBQ and a squash souffle which Libbie made from our garden yellow squash.

~

June 26, 2013 trash

We went over to the greenhouse in the morning with the trailer attached and filled it with the pipes, old pots and cool cell scraps.

We had

an easy trip to the landfill. Purchased some corn and tomatoes on the way there. The greenhouse is getting better and better looking as I continue dis-assembly. We went to Ballroom lesson today where I purchased 2 tickets for Saturday night for \$25. Our lesson was doing some fifth position turns in the Rumba. After ballroom went to Trader joes and picked up a watermelon as well as wine, oatmeal and olive oil. Dinner was butter and sugar corn from the vegetable stand, BBQ sandwiches and cucumber salad.

~

June 27, 2013 Sculpture

Nancy came over to work with Libbie while I went to the greenhouse to work some more. It was a cloudy day so it was a good one to spend time in house 3 disassembling another bench, removing a bench top and pulling the water lines. this house is significantly hotter than the others so it was a good opportunity. In the PM I responded to a Plone vs Drupal discussion and of course Winston dressed me down. I'm getting tired of this guy. For lunch I had a slice of the Trader Joe's watermelon. For dinner, which we had early at 5:30 because of sculpting tonight, we had BLT sandwiches. This is a light eating day. During sculpture I smoothed over the ballerina dress and thinned out the legs.

With Kim's help I worked on the head. This is Gabrielle's last night with us. A new model starts after the July 4th break. I won't be there the next 2 weeks.

~

June 28, 2013 The teens!!!

Good news!!! I weighed in this morning at 218. This is fantastic news for me. My goal is 200 by the end of the year. I think this is reasonable and totally do-able. I did a round in the greenhouse with Libbie late this morning. We got the pipes off the bench in house 2 and the lathe topping off this 4 foot bench. Libbie in the meantime pulled the irrigation line to be chopped up. We had a tiring afternoon and dragged ourselves home. For dinner we had a nice salmon with broccoli and a bottle of Merlot. watermelon was the desert. We were supposed to go out tonight to the ballroom for the Friday night party but we were both too tired to go out tonight. We stayed home and went to bed early.

~

June 29, 2013 dance party

This morning we did the Iris Society plant sale at the Ralston Arboretum.

We both did the greenhouse this afternoon because it was cloudy.

I took down 2 more benches in house 1. The benches on one side of house 1 and 2 are gone. Libbie took the scraps of bench top out to the shed to clear them out of the way. We had an Avocado sandwich for dinner before getting ready for the dance party which was at Carolina Ballroom at 8. We really enjoyed the party. They had nice sandwiches and veggies on the buffet with wine and beer. Really nice. The Pros did some exhibition dancing which was enjoyable. this was in 2 parts then it was an open dance party for us amateurs. Libbie and I danced a few numbers which we are getting better at. It was a nice evening all around. We left the party around 10:30 PM and slept well. I had 2 beers and 2 sandwich quarters plus a few shrimp and cocktail sauce.

~

June 30, 2013 pizza

After watching CBS Sunday this morning we both went to the greenhouse where I took down a bench in House 1 while Libbie chopped up pipes, removed

irrigation pipes and removed the endwall plastic from the Fan end. This frees up the conduit which needs to come off the wall. We returned home exhausted then it started really raining. I tried upgrading the Raspberry Pi program but couldn't get it to work. libbie outdid herself with pizza making. Using the garden tomatoes she made a nice tomatoe pie with fresh basil. Yumm.

~

July 01, 2013 check in

It's raining again!!!! I'm getting tired of this. We had over 10 inches last month. I checked us into Air Canada for tomorrow then I went out and purchased a loaf of bread at Kroger and a new grill scraper for the one that broke 2 days ago. Mowed the lawn when the rain tapered but there was still standing water in a lot of places. Came back and changed some colors as suggested by Joe Bruns. Dinner tonight was Angel Hair Pasta. This is a light eating day, I'm at around 118 pounds!!! We packed the suitcases tonight and the computer, readers and cables and chargers.

~

July 02, 2013 Non stop to Toronto

We left this morning shortly after 9 on a rainy morning for our 11:25 flight.

I had checked in the day before and purchased the fee to send two bags to

Toronto, \$50. Canada Air was a little backward at check in, the one agent of

course was on the phone and a family was traveling with tons of stuff. Southwest

Air it is not! Our plane got off

the ground late because of the rain. The plane was a small commuter

jet but the flight was incredibly smooth all the way to toronto. We

got into Toronto almost on time. The plane was about as far from the terminal

as you can get. We walked for miles which I didn't mind.

The small plane had stairs from the cabin door onto the pavement. Very different in this day and age. We had no trouble getting through customs, the young lady was very nice. We answered the usual questions about why we were visiting, where we were going and how long. We had another long walk to Enterprise rent a car to fetch our car but the great news was we didn't have to take a shuttle somewhere to get a car. The Enterprise lady was very friendly and also young. She had a Gold Toyota Corolla available. We took it and then found it had crank windows. Wow, I didn't know they still made cars like this. Libbie programmed the GPS to our hotel in Niagara and we were off. Traffic was pretty heavy and stopped at times on the QEW but we just went with the flow. We stopped at a Tim Hortons for lunch where we split a turkey Panini which was excellent. After a while the traffic cleared and we went into Niagara without any further problems. Our Hotel was the Embassy Suites and it was wonderful. Our room on the 42nd floor is a suite with a fantastic view of both the American and Horseshoe falls. Our view was way over and beyond what I expected. We really lucked out in the room assignments. We have a suite with a hot tub, several sinks, and a living room. Very nice. We walked down to the Horseshoe Falls after the manager's reception which was nibbles and a glass of wine. Somebody gave us their tickets so we had a second glass of wine. Down at the Falls we bought a bus pass for \$7 each and took the Blue Line back. For dinner we went out late and

walked to the Outback next door
where I had a Rickard Red beer and a
half rack of ribs with fries. Libbie took a
few of the ribs since it
was more than I could eat. We went to bed with the
curtains open
since it was so gorgeous out. The Falls lighting was in Red, White
and
Blue. I was thinking of Mom and Dad tonight. Back in 1942 they had
their
honeymoon in Niagara Falls. I wondered if they came here by
train or if they
drove here in my Dad's sister's car that he borrowed.
I have the telegram of him
asking to borrow the car.

~

July 03, 2013 Behind The Falls

This morning after a wonderful omelet breakfast we went down to the Blue
Line
bus and waited for 30 minutes before finding the bus doesn't
start running till
9:40. We walked down to the waterfront and walked
to the maid of the Mist. It
was about a 15 or 20 minute walk. We
bought our tickets and got right on the
boat. The ride was fantastic
and well worth it. we got totally soaked as the
boat drove into the
mist at the base of the horseshoe falls. After the ride we
took a
bus to Victoria Ave and walked the whole length of the street looking
for
the liquor shop for a bottle of wine. We finally found it at
the other end,
bought some Beringer Cab and caught the bus just outside
the door. Got off at
the hotel and stopped into TGIFridays for
a lunch sandwich. We bought a

California Club which cost \$21 at the bar to go. We had our sandwich in our room in front of the view with a glass of wine and enjoyed it. After lunch we went out again and took the bus to Table Rock which is the Horseshoe Falls. We bought tickets for the Journey Behind the Falls which was also fantastic. they outfitted us with Yellow disposable raincoats. Our first walk was to the base of the Horseshoe Falls which was totally soaking wet. Wow, what incredible power of the falling water as well as the loud roar and the heavy rain squalls as the mist enveloped us. Next we walked the long tunnels which go 1/3 of the way behind the Falls. We looked out two portals in the rock behind the Falls. What fury!!! The howling was spooky and the nasty swirling waters was almost demonic. We purchased placemats and lemonade in the gift shop after the behind the Falls Walk then got onto the Blue Line bus for the ride back to the hotel. We went to the manager's reception again where I had a Canadian Molson draft. In the evening we walked to the front of the Casino next Door to see the fountains then went in to see if there was a restaurant. We found the Marble Canyon Chop House which was outstanding. We had a nice window seat overlooking the park in front of the horseshoe falls. I ordered a Rickard Red draught and the prime Rib which came with a fully loaded baked potato. Libbie had the planked Salmon with a Cab. The meal was incredibly enjoyable. We came back and sat in front of the window watching the Falls lighting. beautiful all around. I couldn't find the battery

charger for my camera.

I'm reading the Last Madam: Underworld in New Orleans and really dislike the book. It's nothing but a recitation of facts with no Story behind it. Boring and not very interesting.

~

July 04, 2013 Toronto

We have to check out this morning before noon. Great news in that I found my

battery charger before breakfast and plugged in for a charge.

This is really a

plus because I was facing the Road Scholar week without my SLR. For breakfast

this morning I skipped the omelet which

was a mistake. I had the pancakes which

were a little tough since

they were on the steam table. We had a fantastic table

right in front

of the horseshoe Falls. Wow, another good time. I'm going to miss

this

place. We left shortly before 12. I got the car from the valet lot

while

Libbie waited with the suitcases in the Lobby then we were off.

We got to

Toronto OK but the downtown traffic was horrible. After

checking into the hotel

I took the car back to the airport using the

GPS. Got to the terminal but I

forgot to buy gas. Went back a few

miles and lucked into finding a gas station

and filled the tank then

went back to turn the car in. I was an hour late but

they forgave

the charge. The public transit ride back was incredibly smooth. I

took

an express bus to Kipling station then the subway to Spadina and another

subway

to King. The whole thing cost \$2 which was incredible.

What a bargain and it

was very fast and as easy going as could be.

I caught a little bit of a Strep lecture
then Lib and I went to Tim
Hortons down the street and ordered a Paniini each for dinner.
We had
it in our room with a glass of wine and called it a night.

~

July 05, 2013 Leaving Niagra

This morning we had the continental buffet at the Hyatt. It was \$42 for
breakfast
with tip. Not sure if this is worth it. Tomorrow we'll do
the coffee
shop or Starbucks or something else. It was raining pretty
constantly this
morning so we mostly stayed in. When it briefly
stopped we walked down to the St
Andrew Station where I bought a book
of tickets and we took the subway to
College Ave. We walked to the
Pierce Arboretum which was an old Victorian Glass
house built in 1909.

The tropical display house was quite good and well cared
for. The
admission is free. After our visit we had lunch at Tim hortons near
the
College Subway. Got on the train home then took a transfer and
got on the light
rail running down King. It went pretty smoothly to
the Hyatt. We were about 15
minutes late for lecture on pollinators
by John L Clark. This was an interesting
talk on how insects and bees
pollinate various genera of gesneriads. Very
interesting. Next we
watched a presentation of the Montreal Botabicall Gardens
and their
Gesneriad collections. Before dinner we walked to the corner LCBO stor
where
hundreds of young people were standing in line 10 deep, all
buying bottles

of wine for dinner. We bought our wine and found a whole foods type restaurant across the street where we bought swiss cheese. We made a dinner reservation at Pease Italian Restaurant across from the hotel for 7:15 PM. They were having the first night of a summer Prix Fixe menu where we had a three course meal for \$35. The bottom line with drinks and tip was \$120. I had the first course of crab, tomato and smoked watermelon. Second course was a lobster saffron with fresh peas and the desert was pound cake with cheese and fresh smashed fruit which included strawberries and blue berris in a ricotta cheese over an Olive Oil cake. Wow, was this good. We went away very satiated.

~

July 06, 2013 Shoe Museum

We had breakfast today at Tim Hortons down the street. this is more budget friendly than the Hyatt. We had the breakfast biscuit which was good then we each had an old fashioned glazed donut for desert. The donut was a treat. We went to a Sinningia presentation this morning by the director of the Geneva Botanical Gardens. Wow, a lot of this was over my head but this is the kind of stuff I want to learn. After the lecture we gathered our stuff and headed out to the Bata Shoe Museum. We got to the Spadina subwaay stop without any problem but we had lots of trouble getting oriented walking around. First we started walking the wrong way on Spadina then when we got turned around

thanks to the help of a passerby, we went the wrong way on Bloor. We walked quite a ways through a nice retail section of shops and mostly restaurants and cafes. Once we got turned around again we decided to get lunch. We found a Tim Hortons on the corner and split a Panini sandwich. After lunch we walked up the street to the museum. I had a buy one get one free coupon so we paid for one Senior admission for \$12.

The museum was very interesting. It traced the history of shoes via a timeline from early man and then the Greeks and Romans all the way to present times. A special exhibit traced the development of sneakers to the present. I noted some similarities of researchers mounting expeditions into far away places to research foot wear.

This is very similar to researching the origin of Sinningias in the remote areas of Brazil. After the museum visit we stopped in Tim Hortons for

an Iced drink. Mine was Raspberry, Libbie's was Lemon. We went to dinner at

6:15 in the lobby where we met everyone for the short walk to the CN Tower. We

shot up the elevator to 115 stories above

Toronto where we had an incredibly

nice dinner in the revolving restaurant

called 360. We each had a Cabernet and

then the Salmon over

a bed of rice and other veggies. It was very good. Desert was raspberry

and blackberry compote with a cream and crunchy stuff. Very nice.

We

sat with Jeff and Eva, Nancy and Jerry Kast and the Karrs, Nancy and Richard.

I took lots of pictures. Jerry next to me also had

a Canon 7d. After dinner we

slowly walked back to the Hyatt. The city

had changed. There was a pretty youthful crowd in the streets on a Saturday night, having dinner, going to the theater, etc.

~

July 07, 2013 Sunday

Up early then down the street to Tim Hortons for breakfast. We have to transfer to the Marriott today. We packed up our stuff and headed down to the Lobby. The doorman got us a cab to take us to the Marriott. It was \$15 with tip. The Marriott was able to get us into a room at noon. It's a crummy location near the elevator but at least we're not homeless for the afternoon. We went on the street corner and had a chicken wrap at McDonalds then got onto the North subway to Eglinton. Hopped city bus 54 where we had a very nice driver show us the Toronto Botanical Garden. It rained when we got there but we waited for the passing shower and enjoyed all the plantings in the formal gardens. We found gardens there from the Toronto AVS. On the way back we got on the 54 bus and it was the same driver. He took us to the subway where we quickly got back to the Marriott.

We napped a little then got cleaned up for dinner. Received our packets from the Road Scholar coordinators just before dinner. We had a very nice dinner in the hotel consisting of beef barley soup, a chicken breast on veggies and rice and Tiramisu for desert. We went downstairs for introductions then to bed after a loong day. Some delightful things today: The Bus Driver to the Botanical Garden, Rain and water drops on the flowers, the waterfall in the creek in the garden, The people on the subway in pretty clothes with Bed Bath and Beyond shopping bags, the fine hotel meal, our road scholar leaders.

~

July 08, 2013 deluge

This morning we were the first in the dining room. We had a delightful breakfast

this morning at the hotel. I had oatmeal and a bagel with coffee. The meal was

great - Libbie had an omelet which looked greasy
or fatty to me with the butter
and cheese. We met Bruce Bell downstairs
for our lecture. He is a very dynamic
speaker with a rich command
of facts, figures and dates. Our tour of the
distillery district
was over the top interesting. We had a nice lunch of veggie
burgers
with fries and chocolate ice cream for dessert. After lunch we hopped
on
a street car to go to the ROM. We had a very interesting architectural
talk
about the crystal before a docent led us on an overview
of the museum. What a
nice intro to the museum. Libbie and I then
walked through the museum some more
before boarding a subway back
home. At the college station it was pouring rain.
We huddled under
an awning for 30 minutes watching people cope with the
afternoon thunderstorm.
I took a movie and some stills. It was an amazing scene
as
people got drenched. We talked to a young woman soaking wet who was
coming
from a job interview. A fellow was playing a classical guitar
which we enjoyed
while waiting. We watched several streetcars pick
up lines of soaking wet
people. We finally made a break for it and
tried to get into the side locked
hotel door.

Instead of going
out to have dinner we opted to eat inside and ordered a pizza
and 2
beers in the bistro. The bill was high at \$41 but it was dry and good.
Five
things that delighted me: the delightful couple from Scotland
we met at
breakfast talking about their journey and tour to Canada,
Historian Bruce Bell

was dynamic and interesting, Our waitress Michele
in a kilt was pretty, very
sharp and called everybody by name, The
young lady who was soaking wet coming
home from a job interview and
had no umbrella but a smile and great attitude,
the rain which was
everywhere while we stood under an awning listening to a guitar
player
and the trolleys picked up soaking people as the lightning and thunder
cracked overhead.

~

July 09, 2013 Boat tour

We slept until 6:30 am this morning which was unusual. Went down for
another yummy breakfast of oatmeal with cranberries, bacon, orange slices
and a bagel with cream cheese. Very nice. Everybody including the
news was talking about the heavy rains yesterday. Power was out in
parts of Toronto, the subways were flooded and trains were stranded.
We were lucky to only have been stranded under an awning for 30 minutes.

Today Bruce Bell took us on an architectural tour of the King Edward
hotel, the underground PATH, some old banks converted to hotels
and the St James Cathedral of the Church of England. It was beautiful.
He gave us a delightful tour of the significance of each of the stained
glass windows including one by Tiffany. Next we went to the old
St Lawrence Hall which used to host opera and ballet. Final stop was
the St Lawrence Market, an outstanding market of food vendors offering
all manners of fruits, meats, cheese and vegetables. We had a very
unique sandwich from the Carousel Bakery called the Pea Bacon Sandwich.
It was a Canadian Bacon piled high on a bun and served warm. Very
unique and very good. After lunch and a dump we headed to the harbor.
We took a street car and then a 509 bus with an interesting Russian
bus driver who called us his friends. At the Harbor we walked along
the waterfront looking at the tour options until we settled for a tour
leaving at 1:30 PM for \$18 each. We met a tour group of Austrians
on board. Nice people, going home to Austria today. We had a lovely
skyscraper narrated tour and then into the Toronto Islands where it
was calm and peaceful. Coming out we took a 509 then the 510 bus to
King where we did a Trolley to the St Andrews station to the College
Ave station where the Marriott is that we're staying at. Five Delightful

things about today: 1. The crowds of the rush hour subways and how we waited for 3 trains as Bruce kept predicting the next will be air conditioned and empty. 2. The remarkable continuous underground shopping center known as the PATH, 3. The incredible array of fruits, meats, seafood and prepared foods known as the St Lawrence market 4. The Russian Bus Driver who took us as his charges and delivered us to the Harbor, 5. The peaceful cruise on the the Empress of Maricopo tours

For dinner tonight we met in the lobby and then took the subway down near the St Lawrence market. We had a nice dinner at HotHouse. We shared a wine and each had Salmon. I had a nice thick piece of Salmon and a chefs salad. Desert was a Lemon Sorbet. After dinner Lib and I wandered around admiring the architecture and the old buildings.

~

July 10, 2013 ago

This was a walking day. We had a nice buffet breakfast. I had the oatmeal and bagel again. We had a lecture at 9 about the Canadian political system then we left and walked down towards the Legislature Building. We walked through the building and then towards the beautiful University of Toronto. It was designed to be an Ivy League school. There was nice ivy covering gray granite walls. As usual, Bruce was entertaining in his ways. We next toured Chinatown then the Kensington Market. This is a rundown section of town with mostly second hand stores and junk shops. It was colorful. We stopped at the Forest Restaurant for Dim Sum. We had plenty to eat on a huge turntable including a Mango Jello desert. After lunch we walked to the AGO where we had a delightful art student for our docent. Wow, she as knowledgeable about the Art. We enjoyed the Canadian Group of 7, A Michael Moline wing and then the Moore sculpture with a hauntingly beautiful music piece played over 40 speakers. 5 delights today: 1. The hauntingly beautiful symphony for 40, 2. Our art docent in the AGO, 3. the nude hot tub people across from AGO. 4. Pretty woman on the streets of Toronto, 5. The Pesto pizza for dinner with wine 6. Learning about a new group of artists, the group of 7

~

July 11, 2013 bodega

We had another delightful breakfast in the Marriott. We had a seat by the window then at 9:15 we assembled and walked as a group down College to the Winter Garden. This theater was a beautiful sight to see. It has been painstakingly restored and improved with waiting areas and escalators. Of course the gold is fake and upstairs the theater is decorated with birch leaves but it is large, historic and unique. We walked back around noon where I used the computer to check in. We had a turkey Panini in Tim Hortons at the College subway then hopped on the subway to Dupont for the Casa Loma. We had an incredible stair climb up to the castle then did quite a bit of climbing inside this Folly from the turn of the twentieth century. I was mildly interested. The rooms have been restored but the artwork and furnishings have been auctioned off. The gardens were lovely but not very large. It was a pleasant afternoon but I wouldn't recommend this venue as a destination.

We came back and crashed for a while before meeting our group for dinner at 5:15. We walked to the restaurant, The Bodega. It was in the Kensington district which we walked to yesterday. We sat with a table of 4 other couples which included our leaders. I had the Salad, Flat Iron steak and Raspberry Creme Brulee. We split a 1/2 liter of Ontario Pinot Noir which was pretty good. After dinner we slowly walked down College to go home. Five delights today: 1. The Winter Garden docent who was quite knowledgeable and dynamic, 2. The girl in the flimsy white mini skirt riding a bicycle, 3. the farewell dinner and table company, 4. the greenhouse sunroom of the Casa Loma, 5. The young Toronto-an who sat next to us in Tim Hortons and shared with us his thoughts of Toronto and the recent storm, 6. The passionate kiss shared by the couple outside our lunch window. She practically attacked her boyfriend on the street

~

July 12, 2013 home

Up this morning at 6 thanks to the alarm in my Google Tablet. We got in the Limo at 6:30 and made it to the airport at just after 7 am. There was no traffic, the cab fare was a flat \$58 plus tip which came to a total of \$72. Not bad. We breezed through check-in then on to customs where we were interviewed and filled out a form. We dropped the suitcases at the bag drop and then went through ?Security. We were completely done by 7:30 AM which was not bad. Had a Tim Hortons breakfast

sandwich and coffee before taking the long walk to our gate which was as far as you could go in the airport. Our cabin attendant was a French girl who was pretty and very personable. I liked her. We got into Raleigh with no problems, got our luggage almost immediately and were met by the Relax and Park Shuttle almost immediately. We were home by Noon. Spent the day sorting pictures, eliminating duplicates and backing everything up. I did a brief tour outside and used my cart to pick up branches in the driveway. There's a pine tree across the path where I take the cart to the creek for dumping. Dinner tonight was spaghetti with fresh basil and pizza cheese. Five delights today: the Ethiopian limo driver, 2. The French cabin attendant on Air Canada, 3. The smooth fast flight from Toronto, 4. The prompt service of Park and Relax, 5. Being home with no issues

~

July 13, 2013 back to work

This morning I played around online during GMA and paid the Cap One Credit Card Bill for Libbie and I. The total was a little under \$5,000 for a change. The last several months have been in the 8,000 and 9,000 dollar category. Next I went to the greenhouse to work but noticed that the Inspection Garage was not busy so I had the Corolla inspected. It's due July 31. Once at the greenhouse I took down 2 more benches.

I'm hoping all the benches will be removed by the end of next week. I drove a nail into my big toe on the right foot this morning. It went right through my sneaker, possibly ruining it. Work continued since it didn't hurt too bad.

Dinner tonight was Panko crusted Tilapia, broccoli and Shiraz. It was nice to be back home. Delights today: 1. Nice dinner with Libbie, 2. How nice our garden is, 3. Sitting on the back porch watching the rain while having an Avocado sandwich, 4. Resumption of the WSJ delivery on time, 5. Two benches down in one day

~

July 14, 2013 work, work, work

Watched the morning programs then went out to the greenhouse to work. Removed another bench while Libbie started moving pots. Came home exhausted

but I wanted to spray the gardens for mosquitoes and white fly so I mixed up 2 tanks of Permethrin and went at it. After this I mixed up 4 gals of Roundup and hit the weeds along the creek. I wanted to do this before we left but ran out of time. Delights: 1) My own delicious garden tomatoes, 2) the book I'm reading on seeing, 3) Libbie's fantastic pizza with our tomatoes and our basil 4) No rain today 5) The pictures from our Toronto trip

~

July 15, 2013 more work

Left early for the greenhouse and did another bench then came home to recover on the back porch. When Libbie went to the Post Office I sprayed roach killer on the baseboards. Didd a hurry up job this time. Will the bugs know? Delights: 1. Blue sky today, 2) AVSA photos which I started working on, 3) Search for newavsa worked out of the box 4)attractive girl in tight red top and form fitted short shorts I saw in Kroger 5) Small finch sitting on top of Dahlia blossom taking it apart. Dinner was Panko tilapia with a salad. Today is an eating light day.

~

July 16, 2013 Tired

Libbie worked early out at the greenhouse. I went later but quickly became exhausted. Prior to the greenhouse I went to the DMV for a renewal, then hit both Trader Joes and Krogers. I also went to Northern Tool to get an impact driver but it was \$20 less on the web site. I bought the impact sockets in the store but ordered the driver online from home. Later in the PM I went back out with the trailer while Libbie mowed. Used the trailer to move benchtops into the shed. This seemed to work well. It's still a lot of work but at least I was able to move a number of the rolls out of the way. The shed will have room for the bench materials as well if I clear out some junk to make room. Casme home hot and very wet at around 5:30 pm. Dinner was BBQ and salad. Delights: 1)The hot pepper on my salad, 2. fresh garden cucumber for the salad, 3. Moving the benchtops with the trailer is going to work 4. A/C in the house 5. July 21 reservation at Fearrington House for Libbie's birthday

~

July 17, 2013 Media PC

We both went to the greenhouse early this morning, at 8:30 am. I took down the remaining 4 foot bench and stripped the top from the remaining bench top after Libbie moved the rest of the clay pots. I did not want to work too hard since we were dancing this afternoon. I came back and started sorting through the pictures for the DVD. I also heard from Barb Pershing about the indices she is going to send in a few weeks. We went to dancing at 3:30 and practiced the twinkle for the Rhumba. I didn't think we did too bad. The media PC parts arrived today. UPS put the case in the grass under the mailbox which was bizarre. I also heard from Adafruit today that the Raspberry Pi camera is in stock so I ordered one along with another Pi. Dinner tonight was leftover BBQ with a salad and watermelon for dessert. Very nice. Today's delights: 1) Working at the greenhouse early 2) Rhumba at Carolina Ballroom 3) Hoffman and Mefistofele on Sirius 4) Watermelon for dessert tonight 5) Media PC parts arrived

~

July 18, 2013 sculpture

We both went to the greenhouse but took it easy because of tonight. I have sculpting this evening. Went to the session and worked on the last models pose instead of the new model who started last week while we were in Toronto. Dinner was rotisserie chicken.

~

July 19, 2013 dance party

This morning we both went to the greenhouse and cleaned up the place. Piled it all in the trailer and made a visit to the dump. Little by little we are finishing this job. Dinner was the leftover chicken from last night, we went to the Dance party at 8. Libbie found a nice pair of shoes that Erica doesn't want and bought them for \$40. We stayed until 9:20.

~

July 20, 2013 wine

More greenhouse bench removal. We only stayed an hour since it was getting hot outside. At home I worked on the AVSA Convention pictures. There are many to be done. Dinner was Salmon with green beans and Shiraz for a nice Saturday night. After dinner we finished our wine on the back porch.

~

July 21, 2013 Libbie's birthday

I finished taking down the last bench in the greenhouse today while Libbie stayed home with her violets. I came home for an avocado sandwich for lunch. In the evening we went out to Fearrington for a 6:45 dinner reservation. We had the 4 course dinner. I had the beef sampler as my main with poached apricot for desert. Very nice. Tried the NC Ring of fire Bordeaux which I wasn't keen about. They treated us well with candies and granola with the check. We drove home in a thunderstorm just like last year.

~

July 22, 2013 Drupal and rabbits

We both chased a rabbit around the garden this morning but no luck. Later we found a dead rabbit in the garden. This was one I probably trapped in the drain pipe. Went to the greenhouse and moved wood, lots of it, to the storage shed. It's cool today and overcast so the job was not bad but it wiped me out nonetheless. In the late afternoon I went to Dicks and bought a Crossman Pellet rifle. It has over 1000 fps. Tried it out but the sites need alignment so accuracy is bad. Dinner was a salad with tuna fish over the top. Today is a lite eating day. The Drupal site was voted on today as being the one we will use. 9 out of 10 people voted for it.

~

July 23, 2013 work

Did an early morning grocery run while Libbie did an early greenhouse trip. I went out there later but she had left. I did a number of trips with the trailer taking 12 foot boards out to the shed. This is working well. Dinner was spaghetti and a salad.

~

July 24, 2013 trash

We both went out to the greenhouse early and got to work. I moved boards while Libbie removed foam from the side wall. We packed up the trailer with foam, cool cells and garbage bags and hauled it to the dump.

This was a lot of trash. We had one problem because one of the garbage bags opened and dumped pipes and flower pots all along the route to the dumpster. We went back and picked up trash along the road. Later in the afternoon we had a pretty good Swing session with Robert at our normal time of 3:30. This is getting to be fun since we're getting better. After dance we went to Trader Joes for a few items such as sunflower seeds then home. Dinner was BBQ on a bun with a salad.

~

July 25, 2013 clearing

While Libbie and Nancy worked on violets I went over to the greenhouse after a Home Depot trip for trash bags and Bungee cords. I picked up some 4 foot cords which I never had. Did not take the trailer, used the garden cart to move bench legs into the shed.

Came back with Libbie

after lunch and cleared the vines to the side stall in the shed.

I need more room to store bench legs. Dinner was leftover BBQ, salad and watermelon. This evening I put the flowers from Barbara into the header. It was HARDER than it should be because of all the CSS involved

~

July 26, 2013 work

Moving table legs into the newly opened stall has made the cleanup job much easier. I moved several piles of legs into the shed and also took a trailer load of twelve footers into the shed. meanwhile Libbie worked on the foam on the side wall. I partially removed the bench in the back corner for better access. We're keeping most of this bench intact to block this opening for what this is worth. I came home and rested up after lunch while working on the forms module on newavsa. I created an affiliates form which mails the affiliate update info to the target address set in the CMS. It works well. Dinner was Salmon with rice, tomato and onion in a curry spiced mixture. After dinner we went to the Dance party and seemed to do well on our rhumba and foxtrot.

~

July 27, 2013 work

More of the same. Libbie and I worked the greenhouse moving wood and taking down the last of the foam on the sidewall. We brought the tractor home where we used it to mow both the front and back lawns since they haven't been done since before we left for Toronto July 1. I tried to do a tutorial on Drupal Search but Anne called about the narrative for the DVD. I sent the artwork images to Janet for the cover after I hung up. Dinner was ribs, lima beans and a whole bottle of Shiraz.

~

July 28, 2013 2x4

After the morning CBS News program I went out to the greenhouse and finished the tale legs and the pile of 2x4's in house 3. Little by little this stuff is getting cleared out. I took some pictures today with plans to sell the greenhouse piece by piece. Came back to the Nicholas's latest iteration of the convention DVD photos. Dinner was an excellent pizza with fresh tomatoes, basil and whole wheat flower.

~

July 29, 2013 work again

Light eating. Need to get serious about this. More greenhouse work. I did not take the trailer with me today but instead used the small cart to haul the rest of the bench legs and 2x4 spreaders. Now I only have the long 2x4s to deal with. This is on a mountainous pile of 2x4s in house 2. I estimate it will take the rest of the week to clear. Worked on a magazine index database with limited success. I can now read CSV files into the Drupal database on the usaviolet server but search is not correct and the display is pretty poor. The items are getting listed one after another instead of in a table or paragraph. Needs work. Dinner was 2 leftover ribs with a nice salad that had carrots, lettuce, jalapenos and cucumber.

~

July 30, 2013 dvd

I did the greenhouse alone today. I moved quite a bit of Mount Wood. I think one more day's worth of work will complete moving the benches out of the space. I brought the saw and cut the white vent line along the heater wall into 6 foot lengths for transport to the dump. I also unbolted the galvanized gas line for dis-assembly into scrap pipes.

It was a great morning and the temperatures were right for working. At home I received the 100 audio files from the Nicholas's for the horticulture part of the Convention DVD. I also finished up the collage work. It's ready to post. Started updating the affiliates portion of the AVSA website. This is going well also. Dinner was spaghetti with chicken and curry sauce and a nice salad.

~

July 31, 2013 dump

This was a light day of work for us. We went to the greenhouse with the trailer and did a lot of pick up and then hauled it all to the dump.

The dump was totally empty which was great. Libbie commented that Wednesday must not be busy. We got rid of all our stuff - cool cells, styrofoam, plastic piping and 3 garbage bags of junk. Excellent. It's way more humid today than the past week.

Started merging images

and MP3s for horticulture section of the Convention DVD. We had a good Dance lesson today. Learned how to do some turns in the cha cha and a right turn in the Foxtrot. We went to Trader Joes after class. Dinner was a salad and Lobster pasta from Trader Joes.

~

August 01, 2013 mount wood

Finished moving Mount Wood at the greenhouse this morning. Now I'm ready to take down the heaters, but first I'll move some of the bench top rolls. Preferreds are getting hammered the past few weeks. Down about 8 to 10 percent since mid May.

Dinner tonight was steelhead salmon and a salad. The Salmon was outstanding.

~

August 02, 2013 Prom

This is a light work day because of the party tonight. I went to the greenhouse and moved the remaining benchtops into the shed. Now I'm ready to start lowering the big heaters tomorrow.

For dinner we had Salmon again with salad. The Salmon was excellent like last night. This is Steelhead variety. We went to the 80s Prom at 8 PM. What a surprise at the number of ladies in Prom dresses. The party was a lot of fun. We won a bottle of wine in the drawing of sponsor names. We stayed until the end which was at 9:30 PM. Fun, fun, fun. We can actually dance a lot of the numbers.

~

August 03, 2013 heaters

I lowered the first of the heaters today which went very well. Anita and Ken came by this morning. They are one of the ballroom dance couples. Libbie worked on the clips on the roof while I hooked up chains and come along to do the heater. In the PM I continued working on the Convention DVD. Dinner was Kroger ribs with Lima beans and the Norton

Melbac we won last night in the ballroom.

~

August 04, 2013 tough heater

We went out early to the greenhouse and did not watch CBS Sunday morning.

I had a lot of difficulty lowering house 2 heater. The pipe supporting it was not supported on the end making the heater slide down and jamming the hook against the cable making it difficult to lift over the hanger pipe. I went home to get the other come along and used it to lift the heater enough to remove the hook. We then had difficulty with the second hook. I first tried bashing it with a 12 foot 2x4 but no deal. Finally I tied some bale to it and Libbie pulled while I lifter the heater by hand. This freed it an I lowered the heater.

Boy was I totally wiped out. I was wiped to the point of almost not being able to drive home. Libbie made another very thin crust pizza with tomatoes and basil from the garden. Yumm.

~

August 05, 2013 style class

I worked on the DVD this morning, adding the PAVE design with audio to the mix. Now I just need to make the AVI files and add them to the menu. Went out to the greenhouse this morning and had an easy time of it. I lowered the house 2 Fan Jet but first I had to unhook the fanjet on the ground which was still hooked up and directly the one to be lowered. After lowering the FJ I sat down in the front and cut up water pipes to be bagged. Took them home and filled the garbage can for pickup tomorrow. Dinner tonight was just salad with tuna on it because this is a light eating day. We tried the Monday night style class with Andrew. It was less than I expected. There were 2 others in the class - Terry and a guy named Steve who didn't know the Foxtrot. I thought this was one of the basics. The class was less than I expected. It had a lot of lecture with minimal practice or exercises.

~

August 06, 2013 Rumba fine tuning

Lowered the house 3 heater this morning. It went really well while Libbie worked on the roof unclipping plastic and pulling loose shade cloths. I went home and finished up the AVSA DVD. This has been a long work period but now it seems to be done or near done. We had a hamburger dinner with lettuce and tomato in a bun. After dinner we went to a Rumba Amalgamation class taught by Mizzy which was excellent.

~

August 07, 2013 fan jet

I lowered the last heater this morning then unbolted the Fanjet and lowered it as well. The fanjet is not touching the ground but the cable is fully extended. I didn't have any energy left to address the problem.

I was totally wiped and could hardly move. I checked my blood pressure at home and it was 90 over 55 with a 59 pulse. Whoa, way too low and a good explanation for the dizziness at the greenhouse. My ballroom shoes came today. they are the correct length but seem tight on the sides. Wore them to ballroom class today. Robert said they will stretch to fit. By the end of the lesson they felt comfortable.

I won't be returning them. It was an excellent lesson. We practiced the sunshine Rumba move and then back and forth with spiral turns. At the end we did foxtrot while Robert gave us some frame pointers. We also sponsored another night and signed up for another 15 lessons at \$1200. I paid half this month and will pay the other half next month.

Dinner was a hamburger on bun with lettuce, ketchup and tomato.

~

August 08, 2013 dump trip

Removed the fanjet from the cable and went to work disconnecting the two Modine Hot Dawgs. They are now free and clear. Went on the roof and pulled all the shade cloths down except for one left on house 1.

We'll leave that one there for a while. We did a dump trip and took the shade cloths and some of the plastic from house 4. This part went well but we got filthy. This was light eating day so I had half a can of tuna sprinkled over the top of a salad.

~

August 09, 2013 south of the border

Moved a heater and Fanjet out of house 4. there has to be a better way. Pulling the cart with little wheels on the gravel with a Modine onboard is tough work. I'll look for other ways to do this. We made another dump run today with the rest of the shade cloth and the rest of the plastic from house 4 which is now free and clear of a covering. I went back in the afternoon and installed a latch on the slider. Tonight we went to the South of the Border theme at Carolina Ballroom. There was a good crowd there. I wore a straw hat with flower shirt for my costume. We stayed until 9:48 which was amazing. Dinner before dance was salmon, salad and broccoli with a whole bottle of Shiraz. I didn't intend to drink the whole thing but we did.

~

August 10, 2013 good day

I turned the sprinklers on for the backyard garden this morning since it hasn't rained for a while. This morning we went to the greenhouse at 9. I moved the rest of the fanjets and put the two Hot Dawgs into the garage. Libbie got another piece of plastic down, this time the end near the fans. That wrapped up our morning. I surprisingly was still at 209 and my BP was 105/76 without any pills for 3 days except for less than half a pill yesterday. In the evening it rained a good thunderstorm and we thought about abandoning our evening plans. We ended up going anyway to The Havana Grill Latin night with Carolina ballroom. The concern was it was outdoors on the patio but it was nice. We danced quite a few Latin dances. Dinner was cafeteria style where we picked our food and it was delivered to the table. I had a cuban with 2 Yuengling beers. We stayed until after 10 in a fun evening.

~

August 11, 2013 feeling good

We went to the greenhouse after a leisurely morning watching CBS this

morning until 10:30. It was hot and sunny out there. I managed to get all the equipment picked up and moved to house 1 near the garage. The cart made it easy. I worked the AVSA website some more tweaking and fine tuning. Libbie made a wonderful pizza with garden peppers. We surprisingly have an abundance of them.

~

August 12, 2013 shutters today

Libbie stayed home while I went to do the ridge pole in house 4 which I got unbolted all the way to the aisle on the East side. Next I took the shutters off 3 of the houses and the flue pipes off 2 of them. This concluded a pretty tiring morning. Great news was my weight was 207 after working all morning in the heat. Whoopie. I burned 2 DVD's and packaged them up for Anne this afternoon. Drove them to the Post Office at 6 PM and then stopped by Kroger on the way home to pick up a 3/4 pound Salmon for dinner. Dinner was one of my beautiful salads with hot peppers from the garden and grilled Salmon. After dinner we sat on the back porch reading and listening to Rheingold which I put on Google Music from Bayreuth.

~

August 13, 2013 cool cells

The usual groceries today while Libbie went to the dentist. I went out to the greenhouse and was very surprised that Libbie was already out there after her dentist appt. While she continued working on the house 3 top removal I finished the shutters and the flue pipe disassembly.

Dinner was spaghetti with cheese which was excellent. I continued the web work this afternoon.

~

August 14, 2013 Dentist & Haiircut

I had a dental appt at 9:20 then went to Krogers for a haircut. Gloria did a nice job, I walked right in and sat in her chair. Next I went to the greenhouse and unbolted the cool cells and tried the ridge pole

in house 4 but I really need vice grips to grasp the stove heads of the bolts so they won't turn. In the afternoon we made the Honey Chipotle baked beans which we had for dinner along with a nice salad. The beans were yummy. Robert gave us a wonderful lesson this afternoon doing turns in the waltz and Foxtrot. We felt it was a worthwhile lesson.

~

August 15, 2013 Ridge poles

Had vice grips with me and took down all the ridge pole this morning and also a few bows in house 4. Libbie stayed home. Burned the library DVD again after some fix ups and mailed it to Denton. Light eating today so for dinner I had a salad and the honey chipotle baked beans. We went to Rhumba Foundations class. It was Erica's last group lesson. We gave her a box of candy and a Target gift card for \$25. We learned basic Rhumba, cross turnouts and a backward turn for men.

~

August 16, 2013 house 4 wall

This was an unbelievably cool day for August. They're predicting rain so we went with the attitude of not doing much. Took the trailer and filled it with all the cool cells and several bundles of plastic. Came back after emptying the trailer and worked on dismantling. I took the shutter wall down in house 4 while Libbie worked on removing the tops in house 2. I listed all the stuff on Craigslist. Heard from a scammer but nothing else. When we returned home we had lunch and started baking the honey chipotle beans for the dance cook out tonight. The weather stopped raining in time for the cookout at 7:30. Our beans were a hit. We brought a cooler with Yuengling to have with our burgers and veggies. We danced until after 10. It was a very fun night. Robert saw us leaving and came out to thank us for coming. Libbie said that's what makes this studio. He's always aware of his clients.

~

August 17, 2013 calibre

It's an all day off and on rain today. We did not go over to the greenhouse. A man and his son came over and picked up our old LCD TV for \$100. The boy is going to use it in his room for a Wii and Playstation. The guy said he has a 60 inch TV but can never watch it because the kids are always playing games on it. I spent the day organizing the files on my nook. Purchased calibre companion for Libbies tablet so she can now get files directly from calibre. This works well. I slowly have been adding Brandon's Kindle files to my Calibre. I went to Kroger and picked up Kidney Beans and some veggies and fruit. Dinner was Merlot with ribs, and a corn-kidney bean-tomato-pepper-onion combo that Libbie made from the vegetarian cookbook. It was yummy. We enjoyed Sat night request night as we sat out on the porch after dinner with a glass of wine.

~

August 18, 2013 house 2 is topless

This morning after CBS Sunday Morning we went over to the greenhouse. The sun has finally come out but the temp is still in the 70's. Libbie took down the rest of the plastic in house 2 while I removed the endwall from house 3. The job is slowly coming along nicely. Tomorrow is Monday so Libbie will be doing shipping. I'll hopefully use the ladder and take the ridge down in house 3. Dinner was another wonderful Pizza by Libbie. this time it was jazzed up with garden peppers. I had the leftover Yuengling from the party with the pizza.

~

August 19, 2013 ridge beam

It's raining this morning which is good since I'm pretty tired. Stayed home and worked on AVSA activities. The menus are not working, found an error. Will have to burn a new master and mail it to TX. This is a light eating day but I was pretty hungry. For dinner I put some tuna on a salad and went with it. This was after I had laready purchased a Salmon but Libbie was watching TV and I was hungry.

~

August 20, 2013 sold

Did the groceries first thing to get that activity out of the way.

Libbie

stayed home and I went out to resume working on the house 3 ridge.

I also played with the pellet gun aiming the sites. I can't seem to get the scope adjusted correctly. I got the ridge bolts removed from the shutters up to the main aisle before I quit for the day.

Sam

and his Father Bob came out to the greenhouse this afternoon too look at the structure. They are possible buyers. They called later in the afternoon and told me they wanted to buy half the structure. This is pretty good news. We are getting cash for half of it. We had Salmon and corn and beans for dinner. Then we went to Rhumba amalgamation class where Malenie taught us some new Rhumba moves. I still haven't figured out the hook yet after we rock sideways three times. Maybe Robert can help us tomorrow.

~

August 21, 2013 Rhumba

This morning we went over to Home Depot to arrange for a person to come out for tile measuring on our back porch. We want to fix the broken tiles. I may also take a look at new glass for the side of the porch where the inner glass panes are frosted. Next I went to the greenhouse and finished up the ridge beam in house 3. The fan wall started falling so I propped it up with 2x4's. I also took down the bows from one section of gutter. Tomorrow I may do more of the same.

At 3:30

we went over to our dance lesson with Robert. He's a fun guy. I think we are lucky to get him as our instructor. We practiced breaks and the hook from yesterday. I needed some help with learning to lead. After dance we went to Trader Joe's and got oatmeal for Libbie, some almonds, wine and Curry Sauce. Dinner was Curry chicken over spaghetti. After dinner I talked to both Arlene and Bob about our trip this weekend.

~

August 22, 2013 Packing

I worked on the ridge poles at the greenhouse and finished them up. i also ordered some binoculars for Florida. The strategy is going to be to leave them down there in our lockup. With luck they will come before our next trip which is next thursday. I got my carry on and packed it for our trip tomorrow. We leave at 8"35 on Frontier airlines.

We will have carry-ons only to save the \$25 baggage fee.

Dinner was

salad and fish since it's a light eating day.

~

August 23, 2013 fly to NJ

Left home @ 6:30 am for our 8:30 flight on Frontier. The flight was pretty smooth and quick, only 50 minutes. The terminal in Trenton was tiny. They pushed the stairs to the plane and we exited the back door from row 22. We had to check our carry on because they had no more room in the overhead bins. Unfortunately they broke my camera. We found that out when I tried to use it at Cramer's Bakery in Yardley. The LCD screen was cracked and the camera wouldn't start. We bought two eclairs and a two coffees inn Cramer's and walked to the Canal where we found a bench and had our snacks. We stopped at a Best Buy on rt 1 and bought a new camera that I really like. Next we went to Dominicvks for lunch. I had a Pepperoni slice we Had inside. The new loc is fancy and an improvement. Did the cemetery and saw Moms and Dads marker and found Barbara's stone. So sad. Stopped by Arlene's house for a few minutes over to VICKIS. We had a Lasagna casserole for dinner then we want to Visit Barbs home. She was leaving for DisneyworldnTomorrow morning. A good day all around.

~

August 24, 2013 sculpture

Had waffles for Breakfast then went to Arlene's while Vicki went to work. Rich was mowing the lawn so we sat on the patio and drank coffee.

It's a pleasant morning, we enjoyed the low humidity and pleasant temps. We all got in our Chevy Cruze and drove to Hamilton, near Trenton, to the "Grounds for Sculpture". I really liked this place. The new camera really did well taking thousands of photos. Libbie and I split a \$6 veggie wrap sandwich for lunch and then spent a few more hours walking around and enjoying sculpture. The most delightful one was peering into the luncheon of the boating party. Second delight was the water garden of sculptures. Drove home very tired. We had London Broil for dinner with Barefoot Merlot. Picked up a bottle of Rodney Strong and a card for Ellie's Anniversary tomorrow.

~

August 25, 2013 party

This morning we had blueberry pancakes for breakfast that Bob made. At 10 we left for the party. Met most of the family there - Arlene, Steph, Jessica and Marijah. Ellie wore her wedding dress that she still fit into. The vows were beautiful. After the little ceremony we got a donut and coffee before the food. I put our card into a bottle of wine which was gift wrapped with a silver bag and ribbon. We hit the food which was delicious. I had mozzarella salad and tomato, some mixed veggies and a rib eye sandwich. I also had some steamed clams and shrimp with cocktail sauce and a Sam Adams. Went back for more clams and shrimp and another beer. Dessert was an ice cream sandwich. Went to the pool and watched a few young girls in bikinis with beautiful bodies. One green bikini and one burgundy bikini as well as some with attractive bikini tops. Libbie and I danced some Rhumba, Foxtrot, Cha Cha, Waltz and Swing. What fun. I was to come back to Ellie and Dave's at 6 for a toast but never made it. I was pretty tired by the end of the day. Fell asleep on the couch at Vicki's. I also finished book 1 of the walking series by Richard Evans.

~

August 26, 2013 everything

I downloaded the camera then sent the 6 of us picture to Arlene and also sent the image to Walgreens for Vicki. The next stop was Home Depot. We picked out our transition strip and used the 5% off coupon to pay

for our order. They will call with an installation date. The job is expected to take 3 days. I went out to the greenhouse and took down most of the bows in house 4. We now have about 8 bows left in house 4. Dinner was salmon and salad.

~

August 27, 2013 backporch move

No greenhouse today. I began stripping the backporch. Home Depot called and gave us an installation date of Sept 4. I took apart the gas piping and put a cap on where the line used to come up to the porch heater.

For now the heater is in the shed. I started moving bricks out to the side deck for stacking in the woods. There's a lot of bricks there. Libbie vacuumed the floor and started moving plants. We made short order of the back porch moving. One more day and we will be ready for construction of the new tile to begin. For dinner I made a Chipotle taco salad which was sour cream and chipotle peppers mixed with chili and cumin and veggies for a yummy salad. We topped it with chicken tenders grilled on the BBQ. Yummy.

~

August 28, 2013 Full Day

This is a full day. At 7:25 I checked into our flight tomorrow on Southwest. We got A60 and B01. I finished moving the blocks off the back porch then went into the side yard and moved all the blocks under the side deck. The deck is in pretty bad shape and is probably a target for a replacement this winter. I still want to also replace the side sliding door and the one window. Next I removed the water line, drain pipe and power for the Koi pond. The copper water pipe had to be cut under the sink and a cap soldered on. This went well, the torch worked fine and the torch cylinder had gas in it. I went over to Verizon and bought a JetPack which is a WiFi hotspot that will work on the 4G network. Net cost is \$20 but I committed to a 2 year contract @ \$50 per month. I can suspend it at will. I'll see how this works. We had a good lesson with Robert at 3:30. We learned cross breaks in the Rhumba as well as 180 degree turns. After dance we bought some ingredients for the Taco salad again. It was delicious yesterday.

~

August 29, 2013 flying

We left home at 5:30 for our 7:30 flight. Everything went smoothly but we barely had a few bites of our breakfast sandwich when they started boarding the plane. The sandwich costed \$8.39 plus \$2 each for coffee. We boarded and took a seat behind the wing which Lib informed me wasn't great. Even worse a 400 pound woman sat between us and took up a large portion of each of our seats.

Our plane pulled away from the jetway but had to return because a light came on for the number 2 engine. We waited 10 minutes while maintenance checked it out and we were cleared. The flight was very smooth. I used the tablet to track the flight and to read the Richard Paul Evans book "The Walk";.

Our hertz rental car is a corolla with 35,000 miles on it and pretty beat up with nicks, scratches and a back seat falling out. When I got to Sarasota I found I forgot my gate card. Talked our way in and bought a new card at the office for \$10. We had lunch at the clubhouse consisting of a salmon burger that we split and a Yuengling. Very nice. The condo looks great. We went to Lowes and picked out carpeting and arranged for a measurer to come out this weekend. We went back at 6 for ribs, I had the prime rib and a glass of wine. My ear is stuffed up from the flight and I'm having trouble swallowing. The Lowes guy called and will come tomorrow to measure around noon.

~

August 30, 2013 Miss Florida

The Verizon Jetpack is working exceedingly well for me on 4G. We have a good strong signal and speed is great. The TV is shut off by Comcast so I tried the antenna input and did a scan. Surprisingly we have very good digital signals from the local channels. We were able to watch GMA this morning. We went out to Publix and bought bread and peanut butter for lunch. We also needed a new alarm clock because the one in the condo master bedroom stopped working. We did a short walk but stayed near home because of the threat of rain. We left at 6 for disco night. They served hot hors d'oeuvres with our wine then we had the dinner buffet.

I had rice, short ribs and salmon. Very nice buffet with a chocolate tiramisu for dessert. We stayed till the end at 10. The last hour

was best because half the crowd went home and they didn't do disco music. Two women complimented our dancing and said we were pretty good.

The highlight of our night was Miss Florida 1990 who actually had a pretty good voice.

~

August 31, 2013 Pad Thai

Last day of the month. We stopped into Lowes and paid for the carpeting. They accepted the 10% off coupon from Home Depot. Price was around \$2100, way lower than I thought it would be. Next stop was Selby for a walk around then a driveby of Siesta Key with a stop at Davidson Drugs for tee shirts that Libbie likes. We picked up more wine and cheese in Publix then went home. I did a lot of Tablet reading before we went out for dinner at Bangkok Thai. We had the sampler plate with Merlot then two orders of Pad Thai. We always enjoy this restaurant.

~

September 01, 2013 rain

Did the morning routine but we ran out of cereal. I ran over to Publix for Libbie's breakfast and also picked up 4 donuts and the newspaper.

It rained on and off most of the morning but I got a lot done on the AVSA website. In the afternoon we took a nice walk then Libbie went for a swim in the pool while I read the paper out there and admired a girl in a brief bikini with tiny bottoms. Nice.

For dinner we ordered a large pizza from Valentinos on Clark. We like their pizza.

~

September 02, 2013 Productive

This was a productive day. I got a lot of work done on the website. For lunch we went out to the clubhouse and split a basket of ribs with sweet potato fries and a Yuengling. After that I was ready for a nap.

Libbie went for a swim and I brought my tablet out to read. We met a couple from building 1 who live outside of Pittsburgh. I'm now on the road to grace, the third in the Evans "Walk" series. Dinner was a Publix shish kabob which was pretty good. It was our first time grilling on the poolside grill at our condo. We go home tomorrow :) After dinner we went out to Publix and picked up a Ben and Jerrys pint of "Triple Threat Chocolate" or something like that.

~

September 03, 2013 fly home

I stayed inside working on the AVSA website. We spent the morning cleaning up the place, disconnecting things for the carpet installers and generally getting ready to leave. We had a lunch of peanut butter sandwiches and left the condo at 1. We had some light rain on the way to the airport. When we checked in they said the Raleigh flight was 15 minutes late but at the gate they announced we were going to have an on time departure of 3:50. We boarded but the plane just sat there for 15 minutes before we departed. The flight was pretty bumpy and totally full. I read the Road to Grace by Evans and am really enjoying it. We got in at 5:30 and after collecting our checked bag we went to the Park N Relax Bus which was waiting. This was good luck. All went well on the way home. We ended up going to La Cocina for dinner. I had a Margarita and a Quesadilla La Cocina which was yummy as usual. Afterwards we did a Kroger grocery run. A very good day.

~

September 04, 2013 back to dance

We had our normal breakfast this morning then we started clearing the porch. I had to run to the greenhouse to get the hand truck to move the Ficus Tree. When I came back Juan was already tearing up the tiles on the back porch. We struggled and moved the tree, he stopped to help us for a few minutes. Throughout the day they tore up tiles, hauled them outside and prepped the floor. We left for dance at 3:15 with Robert. The lesson was great, we did more Rhumba with cross break turns, fifth position breaks, and slow turns. We also did some Foxtrot and nuances with our frame. It was a good lesson. We took the directions for Mitzi's birthday party on Saturday night. Dinner was spaghetti

with pepper and basil in the tomato sauce. Yummy. I got the commercial section done on the website.

~

September 05, 2013 cleanup

The grout and cleanup finished this morning. Libbie is not happy with how much grout remains on the floor. I think it's OK. We went out and bought 3 doormats and a new room center woven mat. The room looks really good. I cleaned one window in front of the kitchen eating area.

Lots of windows need cleaning, the porch overall is dusty. I also caulked the corner bead along the floor. This needs a touchup painting. Dinner was salad and salmon since this is a light eating day.

~

September 06, 2013 fan 3

This morning we went out later to the greenhouse and surprisingly, Sam was there. He was loading bench tops and 2x4's into the big truck.

We're not sure if this is Paul's truck or not. I worked on taking the fan out of the wood housing. It's almost out but I didn't finish the job. I left there pretty tired. We came home and rested up for dance tonight. We had a dinner of chicken and Briyani then left for the 8 PM dance party. We're not bad at the Rhumba, need some help with the waltz. We stayed until the last dance, a cha-cha which we didn't do.

~

September 07, 2013 coming down

We both went to the greenhouse at 9 because Sam was going to meet us then.

He actually came around 10. Libbie worked on the house 1 top while I worked on taking down the house 3 fan wall. Sam and Vermin took down all the bows in houses 2 and 3. The gutters are now ready to come down. We skipped Mitzi's party tonight and instead stayed home with Chinese takeout and Shiraz. Libbie went out and bought a half gallon

of Bluebell Moolicious ice cream.

~

September 08, 2013 busy

After the CBS Sunday show I went out on the roof with a batch of DIY Window wash and the tools and washed the skylights. It has been a few years since they were last done. Next was to mix up a fresh batch of DIY Windows Wash and do the inside of the sliding doors. Took a trip to Home Depot and bought a 20 foot brush handle and a new brush for the outside of the glass doors. Finished the outside doors with the new tools which worked very well. Having two extension poles, one for the brush and one for the squeegee make a huge difference. I also went over to the greenhouse today and moved the big fan under cover and picked up all the bow extension pieces. Libbie gave me a #4 box which worked well. I counted out 100 in the box. This was pretty tiring today and I still wanted to clean the skylights inside and paint the step. Libbie made her excellent pizza which we also had with Bluebell Moolicious as desert.

~

September 09, 2013 window washing

I stayed home today and washed the inside of the skylights. Next I painted the step down to the porch and also installed the shoe moulding under the towel rack next to the sink. Another busy day!!!

I went

over to Kroger and picked up the ingredients to make a Taco salad. This is corn, beans and lettuce with spices and Chipotle to make a nice dinner meal. From Cooking light magazine.

~

September 10, 2013 Violet Club

I went out this morning to Kroger and bought our groceries as well as turkey, cheese, slaw and buns for Violet club. The meeting went well, Martha Cranford came to our meeting for the first time. For a program

we used the Convention DVD which came yesterday. I continued working on the web site. There is a lot of little cleanup items that need to be done. Dinner was the buffet leftovers.

~

September 11, 2013 dance lesson

We both did the greenhouse this morning. I spent some time with the sawzall cutting up the house 3 fan housing for a dump trip. We ended up doing 2 dump trips which included scrap wood and the plastic tops. In the PM we went to our dance lesson. Today we practiced turns in waltz. Dinner was the last of the buffet leftovers.

~

September 12, 2013 website

Today was website work and no greenhouse trip. I tried working off the list of to-do items for the avsa website. The main website was off line all week and was finally restored to a 2011 level. This makes the backup strategy that Winston talked about a bunch of crap. The best backup they have is 2 years ago???? This was a light eating day so we had salmon and salad for dinner.

~

September 13, 2013 ridge pole

Went over to the greenhouse today and took the ridge pole down in house 1. It's a little chilly today, high only in the low 80s with a slight breeze. I wore long pants. We had a dinner of BBQ on a bun then went to the dance party where we got to practice our Nightclub 2 step. We stayed until 9:30. Tonight Carolina Ballroom broke the evening up with showcase demos of some of the competitors going to Charlotte for ballroom competition.

~

September 14, 2013 greenhouse tear down

We left for the greenhouse at 9 and were very surprised to see everyone there working away when we arrived at 9:10. Bob and Sam brought 6 guys with them. they took all the wood then disassembled the three greenhouses. I removed the house 2 fan, we only have house 1 fan left.

Bob bought everyone subs at Jersey Mikes. Libbie and I each ate a whole sub which was excellent. We got home pretty tired. In the evening I ran out to Home Depot for hack saw blades for the Sawzall to cut the columns and dead men pipes. Dinner was Shiraz, ribs, broccoli and Bluebonnet Chocolate Peanut butter ice cream. I didn't do any web work today.

~

September 15, 2013 busy morning

Where does time go? This morning I did a little web work then listed our carpet on craigslist and the old GPS on ebay. I'm also doing maintenance on Traviata - catching up the journal and doing a backup. That new disk drive appears to be corrupt or dead which is not a good sign.

Went to the greenhouse at 1:30. I listed the old backporch carpet on Craigslist. Received 5 replies, Libbie waiting for Wendy, the first one. I also listed the old GPS on eBay. Hopefully it sells at \$25.

At the greenhouse I used the Sawzall with a hacksaw blade and easily cut all the dead men posts down. Wow, I wish I bought this tool 2 years ago for the home greenhouse. I actually cut those posts with a manual hacksaw. Came home very tired and left over BBQ with watermelon for lunch. Libbie made her wonderful pizza for dinner. I worked on the AVSA website.

~

September 16, 2013 tired

Went to the greenhouse later after a morning of home work and web work. I took down house 1 fan and took down house 2 fan wall. I was too tired to cut it up so I came home. Dinner was tuna sandwiches. Had a long long long conversation with Sue Hoffmann about MAAVS and the convention. She wants me to be Master of Ceremonies and Vice President.

~

September 17, 2013 greenhouse

Did the usual grocery shopping but early then did web work. LEft at 11 for the greenhouse where I finished tearing up house 2 fan wall and then did house 1 fan wall. That side of the greenhouse is wall free and done. Dinner was spaghetti with hot peppers and parmesan because we don't have pizza cheese.

~

September 18, 2013 indoors

I stayed inside most of the day working on the web stuff. We're close to launch and I'm doing stuff from the to-do list. Dinner was pulled chicken with Trader Joes BBQ sauce. Pretty good. I scanned quite a few pictures of the early greenhouse days.

~

September 19, 2013 sams greenhouse site

I did the light eating thing today which was good for my health. I continued to scan pictures from Libbie's greenhouse albums. I want to create an album while I'm in Florida. I also started putting the finishing touches on the website ready for the committee to review tonight.

Went over to Sams place on Dowling Rd and looked at the grading job. It's very nice! Dinner was chicken fingers and salad. After dinner we went to Foxtrot Foundations class taught by Robert. The class was worthwhile. When I got back there were many corrections to be made on the website. I made almost all of them before going to bed. Downloaded the new Nicholas Sparks book "The Longest Road" from the newsgroups today.

~

September 20, 2013 oil change

We left the house at 8:30 to drop Libbie's car off for an oil change. Our appointment is for 8:45. We're also getting a tire rotation, recall and state inspection done. It's a rainy day. I took half the bows down in house 1 and noticed one of the tanks were removed by Ferrelgas. I hope they take the others. We had Salmon and butternut squash for dinner with Shiraz. We went to dance party tonight. Fun.

~

September 21, 2013 gloom

Went to Sams this morning at 8. Helped lay out the new greenhouse. Came home at noon. Extremely disturbed by the ebay GPS sale. The guy wants his money back - said it's not as described. Bunch of crap. Picked up ribs and a wireless bridge on the way back from Sams. Dinner was ribs, squash, salad and Rodney Strong Cabernet. Yumm. Still working the website - fixed the store this evening. Sue retyped the AVM articles, don't know why.

~

September 22, 2013 website launch

Rain this morning and most of last night. We stayed home and I finished the website to-dos. Found a really nice script that returns you to the top from the bottom of a long page. Barb added some custom colors to make it standout. Libbie made her yummy pizza again. We had it while watching the Emmys. I was having trouble transferring the website to the new host. A lot of references were pointing to newavsa. Finally found the culprit in a php script and edited it. Had a chat with support about how to do some of the transfer details. In the end after a brief panic the website was working although it was well past midnight.

~

September 23, 2013 getting ready

This morning it felt good to read all the positive website comments. Everything still seems to be OK. I found one bad link I quickly fixed. Spent the whole day doing computer work still. Booked a room on Daytona

Beach for Tuesday night as a treat to me. I also changed the San Antonio reservations although it cost us a few hundred more for a Sunday flight. I also booked a Marriott Courtyard on the Riverwalk in a hotel and parking package for \$184 plus tax, total is \$214. A little pricey but we'll enjoy it. Dinner was Salmon and salad. Starting to pack for tomorrow's trip by first emptying the trunk of the Corolla.

~

September 24, 2013 Daytona

Left the house at 6:22 am to take Libbie to the airport for her 9:40 flight. On the way back I stopped in Bruggers and picked up a bagel with cream cheese. It's been a while and it was good. The recycle guy came but not the regular garbage. I brought both cans back up and left for Daytona at 8:12. Stopped in Florence for gas at 3.12 then stopped at Kroger south of Savannah for gas and a chicken sandwich as well as a bag of grapes that were on sale for 99 cents per pound. I really got sore on this trip, my bottom ached and legs were stiff. There was light rain from Darien GA to Daytona. Checked into the Comfort and then took a walk on the beach. bought two bottles of Yuengling from a convenience store and 4 slices of lousy pizza from Giovannis across from the Comfort. It had no flavor whatsoever but the beer was going. When I got back with the pizza and beer it started pouring rain. By the way, arrival at Daytona was 4:40 PM today.

~

September 25, 2013 Sarasota

It's a balmy morning and the sun is rising over the Atlantic as I head to breakfast at 7 AM. I had the eggs, sausage and bagel with cream cheese. Took 2 cups of coffee to go back to the room and spent some time online before packing the car. I wanted to leave after 8 to avoid Orlando traffic. Used GPS which took me past the Raceway onto I-95 where it's an immediate cross multiple lanes to get onto I-4. I-4 is torn up in what appears to be a widening project between I-95 and the 3 lane section. It started raining in Orlando but the rain was light until I got to I-75 where visibility was poor due to the spray from trucks. It was not a fun drive and could have been worse if traffic

was any heavier. Got into the condo around noon after a Publix run for milk and fruit. I had their General Tso chicken for lunch then for dinner went back over and got a foot long turkey and a bottle of Ravenwood Cabernet Sauvignon. It was nice to be settled. The sunset was the best I ever saw - it was a beautiful red sky due to the clouds.

~

September 26, 2013 carpet

The carpet people called around 9:30 and arrived around 10 am. It was pouring rain when they arrived but soon the sun came out. A very thin husband and wife team did the whole thing - moved the furniture, pulled out the carpeting, installed the new stuff. It took all day. Dan lent me his hand truck so I was able to get the glass top of the dining room table to the dumpster. Good riddance. Now I have to take care of the 6 chairs. The carpet job took all day, they left at 4. I called over the clubhouse and got a full rack of ribs for two nights. I ate the salad, baked potato, roll and half the rack with a glass of Ravenwood Cabernet. Very nice. HAd to put the condo back together which was not bad.

~

September 27, 2013 chairs gone

Took the 6 chairs to goodwill in 2 trips. Only three at a time would fit in the Corolla. Stopped into Havertys and looked at Dining Room tables. It will cost around \$1,000. Took a trip to Bradenton which was worthwhile but won't repeat. Dinner tonight was the leftover ribs with zinfandel. Nice. I treated myself to a bottle of Rodney Strong Cabernet. Nice.

~

September 28, 2013 Florida Council

I got the feeds import working nicely this morning complete with importing the taxonomy terms. This took some doing but it's now solid. I left for Clearwater around 11:58 and got there just before 1. Mary Lou

took me upstairs to hospitality where I had a sandwich. Bought a Sinningia in the salesroom. It was a nice afternoon, I was treated like a celebrity for the website. Dinner was Spicy chicken from Publix with terrible eggrolls and the rest of the Rodney Strong.

I'm really
enjoying reading the Nicholas Sparks Longest Ride book. Nice story so far.

~

September 29, 2013 Driving Home

Cleaned the place up this morning and made a reservation at Comfort Suites North of Savannah at exit 109. I found that making last minute reservations costs about \$10 more than advanced ones. Left at 1:05 PM. Traffic was surprisingly light for a Sunday. Stopped in St Marys GA for gas then made it to Exit 109 by 7:15 PM. I had a Spicy chicken sandwich and fries at Wendys in front of the hotel. The facility is a nice quiet suite location. I'm happy with the choice.

~

September 30, 2013 home

It was an early morning breakfast today then I worked some more on the Bluebird photo Album. My coupon for free extra pages runs out tomorrow. Got going by 8 AM. Traffic once again was light except for all the trucks in SC until we hit 16 (or is it 26?) Lots of traffic gets off there. I had one stop at Santee for bathroom and coffee at McDonalds Stopped again North of Florence for gas at 3.15 per gallon and got home by 12:15. The WSJ was not stopped but somebody nicely piled them up next to a tree by the driveway. Disappointed in WSJ delivery. I spent the rest of the afternoon finishing up the album and finally ordered it in the late afternoon. Yes!!!! Worked a lot on permissions for the AVSA website and finally solved the restricted access issues. Search was revealing restricted items to those not authorized.

~

October 01, 2013 NBC

This morning I went out and did the groceries around 9. I had switched to NBC but found out that Dishnetwork and NBC were having an issue with costs. Received several calls from Libbie as I worked on the AVSA website. Her flight from Baltimore to Raleigh was cancelled but she got booked on another one an hour later. I picked her up then after coming home for a while we went out to dinner at La cocina where I had a Guinness Draft and a La Cocina Quesadilla. Libbie had the same Quesadilla but with a Margarita.

~

October 02, 2013 removing bows

Went to the greenhouse this morning and took down the ridge pole and the rest of the bows in house 1 except for the center covered section.

I'm going to abandon the idea of covering the equipment and just take the whole thing down. I came home very very tired but rallied to the cause and got cleaned up for dance with Robert. Our 3:30 class was great again since we added to our cha cha. tomorrow night is Waltz foundations.

~

October 04, 2013 tiring day

Went over to Sam's this morning around 9:30 with the splice plates. We started drilling holes in the pipes and got one run done. Went home to get more pipes. Libbie came back with me.

We went to the greenhouse and took down half of the gutter run in house 1 to salvage the pipes in the ground. It exhausted both of us. I had to practically crawl back to the car. Dinner was pulled pork BBQ sandwich. We skipped dancing tonight.

~

October 05, 2013 dizzy day

Brought the pipes to Sam's from yesterday. They had two runs of columns standing and started drilling the third run. Meanwhile they had 2 guys putting gutters up. I got pretty dizzy in the heat and began seeing double. I had to sit down for a while to recover. I had a 6 inch subway sub for lunch then stayed around a little while longer before heading home. I stopped at Trader Joes and picked up McIntosh Apples and Shiraz wine. Dinner tonight was some ribs from the freezer with broccoli and Shiraz. At home I took my blood pressure which was fine, I was afraid it was going to be too low. I also looked up stroke symptoms but all is well now.

~

October 06, 2013 gutter extension

This morning I worked on the AVSA directory a little before going over to the greenhouse and taking down 2 gutters in house 1 to get the 6 inch gutter extension for Sam. I didn't stay long at Sam's. Came home and got the AVSA directory running on Drupal which was today's goal. We still don't have committee members but it's a lot closer. Dinner was Libbie's excellent pizza once again.

~

October 07, 2013 Rain

Good, it's raining outside. Can't go to do labor at the greenhouse. I stayed inside at my computer working on the rest of the AVSA directory. I now have the committee chairs listings and the committees the chairs are in charge of in the database using the FEEDS module. Libbie worked on shipping many plants today with Joy. I ran over to Kroger and got some Salmon which we had with Broccoli for dinner. The album depicting the life of BB Greenhouse came late today. Why is it when you want something the mail always comes later? Dinner was the Salmon and broccoli.

~

October 08, 2013 violet club

Libbie vacuumed and I went to Kroger then came home and made Cole Slaw and Broccoli salad. I also cleaned the driveway and garage floor. Violet group came at just before noon. We had lunch, Sheila brought tuna croissants, then I presented the Meet the Commercials DVD. Everyone seemed to enjoy it. For dinner I made Fall Vegetable Curry which had broccoli, sweet potato and chick peas in a tomato and curry base.

~

October 09, 2013 cha cha

This morning I worked on looking at membership software for AVSA. It's a big task. Later in the morning I went to the greenhouse and completely cleaned up the downed metal in house 1. This was the mess we took down last week and left there. I got it all taken apart and sorted by type into piles in the back. Little by little it's all coming down.

We had lessons in Cha Cha this afternoon with Robert. We're learning the timing a little better or different so we can have time for the extra maneuvers. Dinner tonight was Curry spaghetti with chicken. Very tasty and spicy.

~

October 10, 2013 scrap yard

Another rainy day. We loaded up the car with all the wires in the garage as well as some pipes and electrical boxes. Libbie came with me so she could experience the scrap yard with me. It was amazing - all these guys with carts full of junk waiting to be weighed and loaded. We took two carts and loaded all the wires from the trunk and the back seat and got issued a bar coded ticket which we took to the ATM machine and received \$289 cash. Pretty cool. We next went to the Farmers market and got our veggies and then to the Asian lady for our pansies, Salvia and mums. We had Salmon and butternut squash with Shiraz for dinner. After dinner we went to Carolina ballroom of Cary for a lesson in Rhumba Foundations. We learned some pretty complicated steps from Andrew doing a Spot Turn in the Rhumba.

~

October 11, 2013 burn

We did burning this morning of wood scraps. I took down all of the gutters in the front of house 1 on the tank side of the garage building.

It was easier than I thought it would be. Once I unbolted all of them I pulled the end one out and they all fell down. Nice!! Libbie worked on neatly folding up the plastic from the front.

We went to

the Friday night ballroom party later, leaving around 8 since we were both tired. We had a dinner of BBQ sandwiches and a glass of wine before going to dance. We made it all the way to the end at 9:30.

~

October 12, 2013 sams

Arrived at Sam's around 9. I spent the time laying out the ridge poles and discovered he is one short. We put up 4 bows before lunch and tied them together with a piece of ridge pole to serve as a template for the rest of the greenhouse. The workers dug holes and poured concrete into the deadmen posts. I met Sam's girlfriend, Lauren, who is an extremely attractive blonde girl who seems to fit well into the family.

We had Subway subs on the porch and chatted.

On the way home

after lunch I stopped into Trader Joes and got wine and blueberries.

Dinner tonight was ribs, sweet potato and Shiraz with Mint Choco chip ice cream for desert.

~

October 13, 2013 burning

We went to the greenhouse around 10 this morning. Libbie burned wood while I took the footer out of the West side of house 1 and cut down the deadmen standing there. While the fire died down I took some time and cut up the plastic pipes from the cool cells. I made 6 foot lengths so they could be trailered to the dump. Came home very tired and worked on the AVSA directory some more. I finally have the public directory and chairs displaying correctly. Dinner was Libbie super pizza.

She really jazzed it up with an overabundance of fresh tomatoes.
Very nice. We had Bluebell Mint chocolate chip for desert.

~

October 14, 2013 La Cocina

Libbie worked on packages with joy while I worked on the MAAVS booklet instead of going over to the greenhouse in the morning. After lunch we both went over where Libbie burned wood and I disassembled gutters in the front house. We were both exhausted so we opted to go over to La Cocina for dinner. I had a guinness draft and Libbie had a Margarita with our Quesadilla La Cocina.

~

October 15, 2013 pipes

It was another greenhouse clean up day. I took down the back door and door frame. that thing was really solid. I took it down but left it laying there. Most of the day was spent moving pipes, bows and gutters to the pile in the back for eventual pickup. Dinner was squash with pork chops, homemade apple sauce and butternut squash.

~

October 16, 2013 front wall

Libbie burned wood while I worked on the front wall of the greenhouse cutting down the remaining deadmen and rolling up the plastic. This completes taking down the walls. There is one section remaining we are using as a carport covering all the equipment. We had a very good dance lesson with Robert learning about the cross body lead in cha cha. I did some video taping of him dancing with Libbie. Dinner was angel hair pasta. We took a walk today along the golf course. The vegetation has really grown in. We also have a lot of golf balls on our property.

~

October 17, 2013 dumpster

I stayed home working on MAAVS and then got a call at 11:30 that the dumpster arrived. I went over and guided it in place then started taking down the two remaining sections of greenhouse - 4 gutters and all the bows. Lib and I loaded all the heaters and FanJets into the thing. This was the biggest part of the job. We ordered Chinese takeout with a glass of wine and skipped dance class. I want this dumpster filled up by next week.

~

October 18, 2013 busy

I went over to Sams to see the end wall framing. They still don't have the ridge beam finished. After I left there I stopped into Trader Joes and got wine and apples. Libbie and I went over to the greenhouse and put all the bows into the dumpster. We had a dinner of Briyani and then went to Carolina Ballroom where our cha cha is pretty good but the rest needs improving.

~

October 19, 2013 pipes

Went over to Sams around 9:00 and watched them put plastic on the 2 houses. They didn't unroll the roll on the roof but instead hung it like toilet paper and unwound it. I got some moviees of this. We had subway subs while there then went to our own greenhouse and loaded all the pipes into the dumpster. I was happy that we got all the pipes done in one day. Dinner was ribs, sweet potato, broccoli and shiraz wine.

~

October 20, 2013 ballet

This morning we went over to BB and finished loading the dumpster with the gutter sections and closed the door. Mission accomplished!!! We left at 1 for the Ballet. We enjoyed Balanchines Rubies. When we got home Libbie had to make a pizza dough from scratch since she didn't

thaw one. It was yummy as usual.

~

October 21, 2013 scrap disposal

I stayed home in the morning working on MAAVS stuff. Right after lunch I got a phone call that the driver was at the greenhouse to pick up our dumpster. I went over there and followed him to the scrap yard. It was interesting watching him get a gross weight, take the aluminum off, weigh it again, take the steel off and then weigh yet again. We had 1,000 pounds of aluminum and 7000 pounds of steel. After a \$100 dumpster charge we netted \$925 for the scrap metal. I was relieved it was all gone. Dinner tonight was out at La Cocina. I had a quesadilla and Guinness draft. Yumm.

~

October 22, 2013 State Fair

I did the grocery store and deposited the scrap yard check at the Credit Union this morning. We left shortly after 11 for the State Fair. We did our usual circuit. First the gardens and Horticulture, next the Villag of Yesteryear then the hobbies, lunch on the grass, the arts building, the commercial stuff and commercial tents outside, the cow judging and then the fruits and veggies. On the way out we stopped in the Hunt horse pavillion and tasted wines from Duplin Cellars of Cary and a winery in Rocky River. Then it was the easy drive home with a stop in Trader Joes to get some apples. Dinner was angel hair spaghetti with cheese and garden basil.

~

October 23, 2013 waltz

We went to the greenhouse and picked up a trailer load of plastic and took it to the dump. We then used the trailer to bring the ladders and lawn cart home. At home I took the shade off the backyard greenhouse and picked up the pine needles that Libbie raked off the driveway. I need to repair the electric fence which is badly damaged by running

deer. I was able to get the new AMD CPU mounted in the new Motherboard tonight and get the computer to boot it's BIOS. This is a big step forward. Next step is to install an OS. We had a very good dance lesson with Robert. He was under the weather but I finally learned the right and left turns of the waltz. Dinner tonight was pork chops, apple sauce and squash with a glass of Shiraz.

~

October 24, 2013 Media Server

It was supposed to be light eating day but I didn't. Went to walmart to look at costumes but I struck out. I did get a remote controlled outlet however. I want to hack into this and control it from a Raspberry Pi for my sunrise/sunset lighting control. Not sure if I will use the RF feature or not. Probably not if it's simple enough to activate the relay directly since the RF path does not have any feedback. Dinner was Salmon, Shiraz with broccoli and squash. We had Lemon Meringue Pie for desert. It was a rescue pie from yesterday.

Also today

I got Win 7 successfully installed on the new computer. It really flies along. i tried watching several movies over the LAN and it works very well. The darn AntiVirus program on Traviata removed Calibre because it was deemed suspicious. It scans clean by Total Virus. I nuked AVG anti virus and installed Ad Aware AntiVirus. I can't have this behavior on my server not to mention the darn thing rebooted the comouter several times in the past few weeks for updates. Bad news.

~

October 25, 2013 MAAVS

I went to Kroger and picked up a Sympathy card for Joe Bruns who lost his wife. Spent more time on the AMD Media center - got Win 7 installed and stable using the Windows Loader which authenticates it and removes WPA. Watched a few sample movies on it then spent the rest of the dayon the MAAVS convention booklet. Dinner was beans and corn with corn bread. Very yummy.

~

October 26, 2013 halloween party

This morning I drove over to Sams place and checked out the construction. The electricians and carpenters were there. Power, gas and water are all now run to the greenhouse. They were running metal conduit to the fans. The benches look good but I have some concern about how far apart the supports are and whether they will support the lath benchtops. I came home and worked some more on the Orlofsky server and also finished up the MAAVS Convention booklet. Things are moving along fine. Libbie so nicely made me a bear costume head with ears. I added a black boa to the top for fur. We wore our costumes to Carolina Ballroom. For a dish to pass we made ham delights in the afternoon. They were a hit at the party. We stayed until the end at 9. Robert wore a ghost sheet the entire night for his costume. It was a lot of fun but I'm still having trouble with the waltz and doing quarter turns. I need to practice this a lot more. We had dinner before the party consisting of shrimp that we peeled and ate with cocktail sauce and steamfresh corn. We had Shiraz with dinner and took the rest of the bottle to the party.

~

October 27, 2013 packing

This was an easy day. Mowed all the grass with the lawn tractor and repaired the electric fencing. I had to replace quite a bit of it because it was rusty and thin. I packed the suitcase in the evening after watching 60 minutes with a nice story on Peter Gelb and the Met HD and modernization to reach out to a younger audience. Dinner was Libbie's yummy pizza with home grown basil. The basil may have been zapped by frost earlier this week.

~

October 28, 2013 San Antonio

We left the house at 7:40 for our 9:40 flight. Everything went well - the flight was smooth and on time. We rented a Toyota Corolla from enterprise for the week. Drove down to Riverwalk using GPS. Had a brisquit

sandwich and beer at The County Line. Walked a few miles of Riverwalk after lunch and visited the La Vilita Art district. It was quite nice, especially the gallery we stopped into and browsed. Got to the hotel at 4. It was a free night using choice points. We picked up a takeout dinner for Mark and Danielle at La Fogota and visited them in their home for dinner and saw the babies. they're pretty cute. We each had a chicken Queso with the trimmings and a Sam Adams.

~

October 29, 2013 tired

Left the hotel after 9 and went West on I-10 then North to Fredericksburg and then to the LBJ ranch. it was highly educational seeing some of the buildings where history was made. I enjoyed seeing some of the old technology of the time in the Texas White House. After the ranch we visited the Wildflower Seed Farm and had lunch there. We each had a pulled brisket BBQ sandwich and beer. Nice, really enjoyed the formal gardens even though it was Fall. Spring is the best time to visit.

After lunch we went to Luckenbach TX for a beer and listened to live music for an hour. Quite enjoyable drinking beer under the live oaks and listening to music. The performers were quite informal and quite good. For dinner we went to Downtown Fredericksburg to a German restaurant, Auslander Biergarten. I had a ribeye with salad and baked potato. I had a Shiner Bock on draught which was quite good but too many beers in one day. It was my third for the day. Came back to the Comfort inn and pretty much passed out.

~

October 30, 2013 Fredericksburg

We slept till 7:15 Central Time this morning. Wow. We had the Comfort Inn breakfast which was quite minimal After breakfast we checked out and went downtown to walk Main St. We found a very nice Art Gallery that i enjoyed of mostly Western Art. Libbie found a quilt store that had an amazing inventory of quilts. There was a steel stool with leather seat that I was very interested in. It was almost \$300 dollars.

Next stop was the Chisolm Trail winery. We expected to have food there but they only serve on weekends. We did a 5 wine tasting instead.

The wines were passable but not great. I bought a Cabernet which was

OK but there are better California wines. We enjoyed the road out of there. On the way to the winery the road had Longhorn cows in the road. The road out was narrow and crossed a creek on a paved creek crossing. Pretty neat stuff. The trip to Kerrville was only 20 miles.

At Kerrville we stopped at a Taco stand where I had a very nice Tostada.

Yum. While reading in bed at the Inn Of the Hills, Anne and Richard called. They were 2 hours away and wanted to meet for dinner.

We

got together with Janet and her Mother and Anne and Richard for dinner at Cowboys, a steak house which was very good. I had a half rack of ribs with baked potato and salad with Blue Cheese dressing accompanied by a glass of Cabernet which wasn't very good. They didn't have the Beringer so we had something called Williams wine which was not great.

~

October 31, 2013 Lonestar

Happy Halloween. We had breakfast this morning in the hotel which had a wonderful buffet included with our room. The cold buffet included hot oatmeal or waffles plus fruit and bagels, etc. It's incredibly nice. Libbie helped Richard with classifications while I went to the room and did some web work. I fixed up the director eMails and addresses and published that in the public section of the website. I did some other misc work on LSAVC that needed doing. We went out to dinner with the Nicholas's to Billie Jeans which we really liked. I had chicken saltillo which was chicken breast covered with bacon, mushrooms, cheese and was accompanied with onion rings and cole slaw.

~

November 01, 2013 judging

We did the cold buffet again then went to the judges instructions at 8:30.

I enjoyed judging with Mary Corondon and Irene Hafner. We did the vintage, trailers, unusual containers. I enjoyed judging the show, will probably sign up to also do MAAVS. In the PM we went to the Art Museum. They ripped us off, charged us \$10 for admission and didn't

tell us there was no art. They put it all in the vault so they could have their sale. We left disappointed. The show was open in the afternoon so I hooked up the camera and took pictures. I think the flash with light modifier will work out very nicely with softening the light.

We went out to dinner to Billy Genes again on the river. We had a booth but the whole back room was filled with AVSA folks at 3 long tables. We stopped by after dinner and chatted with the Savages, Ruth Loomis and John and Judy. Did not do the dancing tonight, unfortunately Libbie is coming down with my cold.

~

November 02, 2013 last day

It was 45 outside this morning. Brrr. We had the hot breakfast on our final day. I set the DVDs up at the Ways and Means table and they sold out which is great. I took photos in the showroom then went to Penny's lecture at 10:15 which was very good. Her talk was growing African Violets Project Manager style. We took a break and checked out of our hotel room after her lecture then sat in on the tail end of Steven Spachaks Episcia lecture. He was pretty free flowing and not reading from a prepared script. We left the hotel and walked next door for lunch at the Taco place next door before heading out of town. We picked up tissues in Walmart for Libbie and drove down I-10 towards San Antonio. We canceled our Marriott Courtyard room on the riverwalk and booked a Comfort Inn by the airport. In Boerne outside of San Antonio we stopped at Country Hill Violets, the business owned by Ken Froebese. The Comfort Inn let us check in at 2:30 PM. Libbie was really dripping so we located a Walgreens nearby, drove there and got a consultation. The pharmacist recommended an antihistamine which we bought and it worked. After resting at the hotel for an hour we went downtown which was 17 minutes away and parked in a lot next to the riverwalk for \$7 flat rate. We went to Paesano's Restaurant, an Italian place where I had baked ziti with Italian sausage and a glass of Ravenwood. Libbie had an Alfredo. Our seat was lovely, the food and service were excellent and the price was moderate. After a relaxing dinner we took a boat ride on the river and enjoyed the ride in front of a Latin band. They were pretty energetic and lively. We went back and set the alarm for 5:15 wakeup which isn't too bad because we go off daylight savings tonight, back an hour.

~

November 03, 2013 travel

Up this morning at 5:15. The Google Tablet auto-magically switched from daylight to standard time. I previously changed time zones to Central at the start of the week, actually on the plane coming here. It was chilly outside this morning. I wore my NC jacket and a flannel shirt so I was comfortable. We got coffee in the lobby as we left. Had to go around the block once to find the car return. The bus was waiting as we dropped off the car. TSA was pretty easy to go through, the line was short. We had a terrible breakfast at Dunkin Donuts on the other side of TSA. I had a bagel with cream cheese. They also put a slice of American Cheese on it which I took off and threw away. Yuck. I got the exit row on both of our flights. I got a chatty guy on the way to Chicago and a squirm-er on the way to Raleigh but it was an easy trade-off for the extra leg room which was comfortable. I rally got into the Karen Robards Shiver novel. I forgot what a good writer she is. Libbie made some cheese and tomato toast rounds when we got home and then we had her marvelous pizza for dinner.

~

November 04, 2013 home

This was primarily catch up day. I also rounded up the garbage and put it out - we missed pickup last week because we were in TX. The new DVR antenna box came but I didn't hook it up yet. I did post the new AVM magazine cover and index. Dinner was Salmon with frozen peas. This was supposed to be a light eating day but I cheated quite a bit. Libbie isn't do well with her cold. I definitely had it easier.

~

November 05, 2013 greenhouse

I did the groceries early then came back and worked some more of the AVSA website. None of the older CDs and DVDs is on the site. Much to do on the site. I also wrote a tutorial on how to update the magazine section of the website. I'm not sure who is going to do the updates of this section. Winston sent a description of this month's content

which I posted. Bob Hilker called and I went over to Sams at 2:30. Wow, what a mess. They still haven't hooked up the inflation and the Fanjets are in front of the heater in a bizarre configuration. They also have one of the fans rotated 90 degrees so that the shutter won't go on. They have not read anything about how greenhouses work. Dinner was plain spaghetti with cheese. There was no heat in the house early this morning. The thermostat batteries were dead so I bought new batteries for upstairs and down. I also mounted the antenna in the attic and located the correct down coax to hook it to the new DVR box that came yesterday. I did a channel scan and it found all the local digital channels. The little adapter box is pretty good.

~

November 06, 2013 great one

Happy Birthday to me! After breakfast I went out for a haircut at 9 when they opened. Gloria took me right away. Glad that's over with.

Libbie

spent the day packing way too many plants and her show plants.

In the evening we had a Chinese takeout dinner with Shiraz and chocolate truffle birthday cake from Kroger. After dinner I pcpacked for MAAVS New Bern.

~

November 07, 2013 MAAVS day 1

We got going this morning in the rental minivan, a Toyota Sienna which seems pretty spacious and luxurious. We left around 8:30 and stopped around Princeton for gas and a boBerry biscuit at BoJangles. We got to New Bern around noon, checked into the hotel early and started unpacking the plants. Libbie did classification all day with Ken Barbi doing the entries. They stopped at 7 and we all had dinner at Christophers on the Water in the hotel. I had Fish and Chips and we split a bottle of shiraz with the barbies. Libbie set the show up after dinner and I went upstairs to rest and read.

~

November 08, 2013 MAAVS day 2

Commercial sales opened this morning, I helped a little while libbie went somewhere. At 1:30 I did the Meet the Commercials talk which went over pretty good. We sold 8 DVDs. I went down Middle Street to the Kitchen Bakery for a takeout lunch which was pretty good. I had a grilled ham and cheese. Libbie had a grilled swiss. Dinner tonight was a BBQ buffet in the hotel which was very good. We joined a bunch of folks for Karaoke in the bar. I recorded some of it and posted to Facebook.

~

November 09, 2013 MAAVS last day

Thank goodness I stayed away from Commercial sales. I hate it. I went to Andrews presentation about soil, got the PPT for the website from him then went to the membership meeting. I was elected VP on a floor nomination which was pre-planned. At the banquet this evening I had the vegetarian portobello with some kind of rice looking pasta and spinach. I didn't care for the spinach. I tried a Duck Rabbit beer. Ed Lyons and Hanna came and played dinner music for MAAVS. I was the MC and then Kitty handed out awards and Ken did the installation. Ann-Marie did the photography for us. It was a nice evening. This is a good hotel but attendance was very poor.

~

November 10, 2013 savannah

This morning we got up early and packed the minivan. Chatted with the Philly girls in front of the hotel for a little. they were in a rented SUV. We had an easy drive to Kinston where we stopped at McDonalds for breakfast. Got home around noon. Libbie put all her plants away and on waterers as we repacked our suitcases and hit the road by 2:40. We deposited checks in the CU before leaving town. Arrived at our hotel in Savannah around 7:30. We found a wonderful restaurant, the Sweet Tea Grille in front of the hotel. It was outstanding. We both had lump meat crab cakes with Yuengling.

~

November 11, 2013 sarasota

After a non descript Comfort Inn breakfast we hit the road by 8. This was a bonus night paid with points so I can't complain. Liked the young mother is shapely black tights with two little ones in the restaurant.

Nice! Arrived in Sarasota around 2:30. We saw Peter right away and the very attractive Candy who was cleaning sills and lights. I like her short shorts and nice legs. A guy will be taking over for her. We went to HAvertys and Publix. Havertys has a table but can't deliver until next week. We got wine and cheese in Publix and had BBQ at home which we brought with us from NC. The wine was a nice Rodney Strong Cabernet which accompanied triscuits and swiss cheese.

~

November 12, 2013 operetta

After breakfast we attended the homeowners and the board meeting which started at 9:45. After the meeting it was time to go furniture shopping.

We drove up to Trader joes then visited Rooms to Go. It's a very nice store but we struck out. Next stop was Kanes. They didn't even help us, we sort of found a table and chairs made by Broyhill. We reserved the table and stopped by Havertys to take another look. We ended up buying the Havertys furniture. They gave us the Veterans day sale price plus a \$50 veteran day bonus. This was a great deal. The list price was 999, sale price of 899 and veterans day bonus of \$50 for a total of \$849. Tax and delivery brought it back to just under \$1,000. A stop by the clubhouse for lunch capped the day. I had lobster and shrimp croissant with a glass of Yuengling.

I messed up

the Online groups on AVSA.org by accidentally deleting the online groups.

I will have to restore them from a backup unless Mel has a copy.

We had some crackers and cheese before leaving for the Opera at 6:50 am We found parking in front of the Church 2 blocks away. The Operetta was a total delight. When the curtain opened and the staircase was revealed with the entire cast and chorus it was stunning. The music was light and very enjoyable. We had nice seats in the center of the Opera house. There was light rain on the way back but nothing serious.

~

November 13, 2013 windy

It's a cold day. I spent most of the day indoors doing web updates. Libbie and I took a short walk in the afternoon but came back quickly since the wind was brisk. Even though temps were around 70 the wind made it difficult to walk. At 7 PM we went out to pub night. I had Yuengling with an Oyster basket while Libbie had the crab cake. She said it wasn't as good as the Sweet Tea Grille in Savannah. We came home and had the rest of the Bluebell ice cream, Fudge Divine.

~

November 14, 2013 selby

I continued working on the various websites - MAAVS, AVSA and Lonestar. Libbie left at 11 for her first golf lesson ever. I finished the MAAVS website with the New Bern pics. In the afternoon we enjoyed Selby Gardens. Walked through the Childrens rain forest. I objected to this at first but it is high quality and should attract more people. We had wine and cheese at sunset then at 6:45 we went over to the clubhouse for rib night. We both ordered the 7 ounce prime rib which came with veggies, baked potato and yorkshire pudding. Penny finally sent the Lonestar presentation files and I created a presentation page under the Kerrville past conventions menu option.

~

November 15, 2013 Die Fledermaus

I did more website work in the morning then we went onto the driving range and played a little on the pitching green. We picked up a bag of balls and tried pitching then I used the rest of the older bag I had on the driving range which was fun. I got to wack away at some balls. We had an afternoon performance of Die Fledermaus. Our seats were excellent in row F in the center of the house. The performance was outstanding. The Orchestra never sounded better, the opera was comically played and the singing was excellent as usual. I love this Opera house. We got back around 5 and rested before going out again to our favorite Thai restaurant, Bangkok Thai where I had a Michelob and

Chicken Pad Thai. It was spicy, hot and yummy. I came home terribly full and pleasantly sleepy.

~

November 16, 2013 Tango

This is a rainy day. There's a tournament going on and the rain is pouring. The carts are making a wake in the puddles as they go down the path outside our Lanai. It cleared later in the day so Libbie and I went out to the pitching green and finished up our bag of balls. This has been a lot of fun. Yale was out there giving advice to Libbie and some guy in the sand trap as well as some women who were also pitching.

After the pitching session we went home and cleaned up then had the leftover Pad Thai for dinner. It was still pretty spicy hot and yummy. We left at 6:50 for the 8 PM performance of Tango Fire. The performance at Van Wezel was spectacular. There were some very hot Tango women dancing in very skimpy clothing with boobs hanging out every which way and slit skirts that revealed the thongs they were wearing underneath. At one point the conclusion of a number had the male hold the girl in the air with her dress opened to reveal her naked bottom for the ending. These women were truly beautiful. The final numbers had the 5 women come out with their hair down doing even more sultry dances than I thought were possible. Loved it!!!!

~

November 17, 2013 python

This morning I successfully got the Python program to parse all the files in the AVSA photo directory and print a map of picture names to image files. It was a text file and still needed some minor editing in Ultraedit before renaming to a CSV and uploading into a spreadsheet. Now the uploading work can begin. Mailed it all off to Barbara and started writing the tutorial. This afternoon we played on the golf course doing a little pitching then took a ride to Siesta Beach. The parking lot and the key itself were very crowded. We lucked out and found parking at beach access #7 which is about 1 mile North of the public beach. We enjoyed the walk in the sand down to the sand castle competition I saw a lot of nice bikinis and one thong. Libbie spent the time on her cell phone which I think is stupid. For dinner we ordered

a pizza from Valentinos on Clark. Dave downstairs visited us and told us our toilet was leaking on his bathroom ceiling. I'll deal with it in the morning.

~

November 18, 2013 toilet

After breakfast I went to Lowes and picked up a toilet seal, a thick one this time. I believe due to the tiles the flange is low and it requires a thicker seal to make up the 1/2 inch lower flange from the toilet outlet. The work went well. I also bought a nice #2 phillips screwdriver with a comfortable grip to replace the storm door screws which have stripped out their self tapping holes. The seal installation went well. I had a couples golf lesson today with Libbie at 11:15. This was fun and I really learned a lot about chipping and lifting the ball from further away from the pin. I was hitting over the top of a sandtrap onto the far side of the green. We stopped by the clubhouse to pay our bill, get the finance charge removed and have lunch. We both had a Yuengling and a shaved steak and mushroom Quesadilla which was outstanding and a lot of food. It was dinner for me. We went back out after lunch to practice a little and use up the remaining balls in our bag then went to Publix for Swiss Cheese and bread rounds. We had wine and cheese for the sunset which was pretty good tonight. I laid down with my tablet to start reading Travels with Charlie while Rigoletto was on live. I fell asleep during a wonderful performance by Horestovsky. Turned the toilet water on before we went to bed, no leaks so everything seems good. Tried reading again but quickly fell asleep. Fresh air during the day and wine for sunset finished me off but it was a pretty good day.

~

November 19, 2013 dance

We had a 9:15 golf lesson with Susan this morning. It went pretty well, we went to the driving range today and tried bigger swings. I had some success with the #7 iron and the fairway driver but the #1 driver was a challenge. I couldn't get the ball airborne. Somehow my right arm developed a severe pain when I twist it. I'm not sure what I did to it. The bridges on the right side of my mouth are also bothering

me. I think I was remiss with flossing in Texas while eating all that beef. Flossing helps the pain go away. I need to take it easy on that side of my mouth and continue to keep the gum line clean with floss. We were going to go out to practice this afternoon but my arm hurt so bad I didn't go. We left at 6 for dinner at Panera. I had a chicken chipotle Panini and cup of French Onion Soup. I didn't need the sandwich because earlier we had cheese and crackers with wine as we watched the sunset. We went to Sarasota Ballroom group lesson at 7 and then practice at 8. The total was \$10 each. I did learn something new with the lesson but I'm not sure it was worth it. I absolutely hated the group mixer practice session. I don't like dancing with other women very much.

~

November 20, 2013 travel

I did computer work while Libbie worked on cleaning the condo. I tracked the Havertys delivery on my laptop. At approx 10:30 the truck showed up on time. They delivered and set up the table and chairs. I sat in one of them and it was very comfortable. We put the remaining items in the car and left around 11 am. The drive was very easy. We did a gas and lunch stop in Lake Mary. Gas was 3.27 and lunch was a McDonald snack wrap. We had light rain around Jacksonville but kept moving at the speed limit. We arrived at exit 109 in Savannah around 6 PM. There were 2 lanes of traffic backed up onto I-95 for over a mile. I think it was rush hour. For dinner we went to the Sweet Tea Grille and had Crabcakes and a Fat Tire beer. the waitress carded us! It was a nice night in the Comfort Inn. We were on the non I-95 side of the building so it was quieter.

~

November 21, 2013 Catch up

This morning we had the Comfort Inn breakfast which was mediocre then stopped an hour down the road at a filthy mcdonalds between Santee and Walterboro for more coffee and gas. Gas was 3.09 We topped off 100 miles up the road just North of Florence for 3.09 and got home around 1:30 PM. I spent the rest of the afternoon moving computer files around and unpacking. Dinner tonight Salmon with frozen corn and one glass

of Shiraz.

~

November 22, 2013 dance

I spent a lot of time on the computer today. I uploaded the rest of the Karaoke video to Facebook and started looking at how to use the Feeds module to bulk upload pictures to the photo Galleries. In the afternoon we had a very nice dance lesson with Robert at 3:30 learning to add a grapevine with twinkles to the Foxtrot. It was a pretty good lesson and the video I took afterwards will help with our learning. My guns are really in pain today despite multiple flossings. We had chicken fingers and squash for dinner then went out dancing to the studio. It was Ticky Tack night, I wore a green hoody with a tie. My new Sarasota outlet gray jeans felt very comfortable. They are a size 40 instead of 42 and fit nicely. We danced a lot of the dances and I'm pretty happy and felt energetic.

~

November 23, 2013 Indices

More working on the website. I started getting the AVM indices from Barb Pershing. I need a Python program to translate the category number to a string. There are a few hundred categories. In the afternoon I went out to Kroger and picked up some Salmon for tonight. My gums are still aching so I wanted something soft to eat. I hope the gum problem doesn't require dental work such as a root canal - horrors. I went outside in the PM and scooped up the piles of leaves that Libbie left in the front of the house. I used the pine needle and leaf mixture to mulch the azaleas. Dinner tonight was salmon, frozen peas and Shiraz. As a bonus we had a Kroger baker Apple Pie. I bought a half pie today. It was not bad for a store bought pie.

~

November 24, 2013 python

We had a normal Sunday morning watching CBS Sunday which specialized in

food because of the coming Thanksgiving holidays this weekend. My tooth and gums were killing me until late in the day I used a brush pick and did a thorough cleaning around the base of the front tooth and it seemed to make the gums feel much much better. For a while I thought I was in for a root canal in the front tooth with the bridge.

I even googled it to see if it was possible (it is). I continued to work on Python programming to convert a numeric category in the AVM index into a text string. Because I was freezing last night and had severe leg cramps that wouldn't go away, I went to Walmart today and purchased fleece pajama bottoms by Fruit of the Loom for \$9.62. They're pretty soft and hopefully will be warm. It's supposed to dip into the low 20s tonight Brrr. Dinner was another Libbie creation - her pizza.

Joe called today from the San Antonio airport on his way home after 2 days at Marks. We tried watching the American music Awards tonight on TV but turned it off after a few minutes. It didn't seem like a very good show.

~

November 25, 2013 zigzag

I worked on AVM index files and Python today to convert category numbers into text. We had an excellent dance lesson with Robert today at 4:15.

We learned some new moves with the waltz - a twinkle and a zigzag.

The video has really helped us with the Foxtrot grapevine last week.

On the way home we stopped into Krogers and picked up some spaghetti which we had for dinner.

~

November 26, 2013 photo gallery

Continued working on the Python program for the AVM indices. I also studied different search modules and even non Drupal search techniques.

For now I'll stick with Drupal. Barb Burde, Internet Chair, wanted to know how the photo gallery was coming. I need to switch gears and work on the photo gallery since that's what users requested. Dinner tonight was tuna sandwiches and Progresso Corn Chowder soup.

~

November 27, 2013 Preparations

Went to Trader Joes early in the morning with Libbie and picked up wine and oatmeal. On the way home stopped into Kroger for last minute Thanksgiving items. Libbie hung the Christmas Cactus on the porch which started blooming in the greenhouse. It's pretty cold today. Dinner was a Lasagna that we picked up in Trader Joes.

~

November 28, 2013 thanksgiving

Thanksgiving!!! Went out around 8:30 tot Kroger for the newspaper. the place was deserted which was good. It's a nice sunny but cold day. I worked on the AVSA photos today some more and finished uploading the last of 3,800 additional photos. My work is complete in the Photo Gallery. Libbie worked pretty hard today. She made the fruitcakes in the morning and then started the turkey in the afternoon. We had turkey, stuffing, potatoes, corn and cranberry with Shiraz. The turkey was a very juicy and tender butterball. It was one of the best turkeys we have had in a while. yummy. A great day.

~

November 29, 2013 Black Friday

The day after and Black Friday. i bought the Corel Video software for \$29 from NewEggs Black Friday sale. I'll use this mostly for AVSA. I rounded up a video cam for the media PC I built in my office. This thing is too loud for use in the living room. I'm not sure what to do with it but it is very very fast. It has the large monitor and a solid state drive. Dinner was leftover turkey with potato and leftover corn with Shiraz. We had pumpkin pie for dessert. I started looking at the AVM indices for the website.

~

November 30, 2013 End of the Month

We set up the Christmas Tree on the porch today. I bought candy canes for cookies and the tree. I made a batch of cookies this afternoon from the Consumer Reports recipe for lemon cookies and also chocolate peanut butter cookies. They were pretty good although Libbie insists they need eggs and baking soda. I did a Kroger run for cookie toppings and also topped off my gas tank because the gas point run out today.

I took 7 gallons at 3.02, a 30 cent savings with our points. Dinner was turkey, peas, potatoes, cranberry and Shiraz with cookies for dessert.

We tuned into the Joe and Christa Little Pumpkin Party today for the big reveal. Debbie cut the cupcake - it's going to be a girl.

~

December 01, 2013 bulbs

First day of December and it's clear and warmer. I went out and planted the rest of the Fall bulbs. Hurray. Got indices in the database for 2013 and 2012. This is going better than I imagined.

Libbie made

her pizza for dinner. It was incredibly good.

~

December 02, 2013 dance

Another nice winter day. Joy came over to help Libbie with shipping.

It's Cyber Monday - I ordered shirts from LL Bean and a B4A license from Basic for Android. This entitles me to the 3.0 version. We had a very good dance lesson with Robert today, focusing on the zigzag and left/right turns. I think I made some progress today. Watching the video from last time I was having trouble finding a pattern. According to Robert, you only do the zig zag once before switching into something else. For dinner we had Salmon and Spinach which was yummy.

~

December 03, 2013 slow day

I spent some time reading about B4A today then went to Kroger for Salmon

and Spinach for dinner. Very good. Said goodbye to Jack who stopped by to drop off an Orchid and is moving to Oregon.

~

December 04, 2013 Airport Day

I took Libbie to the airport at 6:45. After I dropped her off I got home and she called saying she left her purse at home. I drove it back to the airport in rush hour traffic which was bad - stop and go on 40. She missed the 8:20 flight but was rebooked for an 11:15. I think she learned a lesson. I did a lot of driving today. Stopped at Trader Joes and got a Veggie pizza that was good but not a favorite. Spent an hour on the phone with that stupid Bluecross plan. They read ridiculous legal documents over the phone to me and I had to agree to it all. Idiot bureaucrats. Dinner was the mentioned Trader Joes Vegetarian Pizza.

~

December 05, 2013 Irrigation

I started to look at the sprinkler controller. This thing needs an ethernet connection which I will drop into the laundry room and then over to the towers. I went to Home Depot and looked at electrical boxes but didn't buy one since I didn't feel the \$20 was worth it. I could do as well by repurposing the existing box. I looked on eBay at refurbished Google Nexus 7 and found the lowest price at \$125 but then found Walmart is selling them refurbished for \$129. I tried with a different router and still couldn't get the Google Chrome working. It's going back. I watched the Barbara Streisand movie "Guilt Trip" which I enjoyed. Not a great movie but it was enjoyable. I would give it 3 out of 5 stars. The credit card bill is ridiculous at over \$5,000 because of dance lessons and dining room furniture in the condo. One more reason why I did not buy the electrical box. Dinner was a couple of bean burgers with onion and ketchup. I liked them. I caught the end of the Sound of Music which was live with Carrie Underwood. I'll check the bit torrents to see if I can get a recording.

~

December 06, 2013 beautiful

It's a beautiful day out. I worked outside today and picked up the pine straw from last week and spread it around in the back. While blowing off the garage, driveway and front porch I noticed the extreme buildup of moss on the front steps. Tried out the pressure washer and found it started quite easily although the gas can is empty. I decided to see how far it would go pressure washing the house. Cleaned the front steps, landing and door. It still was running so I moved it to the driveway and washed the garage door and molding. The dirt came off pretty easily and the door looks much better. I also cleared the workbench of "stuff" that has sat there too long. Dinner was a vegetable Lasagna from Trader joes. It's pretty good although it could have been better if I put it in the oven instead of the microwave. The microwave toughens the pasta. I did some more reading of "Travels with charlie". I like Steinbeck's writings. Will seek out more.

~

December 07, 2013 Gilda

This was raspberry pi day. I built up the Open Sprinkler hardware into an electrical box, the one used for the former tower timer. this all went well. Configured an image on the downstairs raspberry pi with the new open source pi and the latest Raspberry wheezy image. This went pretty well. I hooked it all up and was happy. I ran to home depot and got a 50 foot ethernet cable to water the towers. I initially did a 20 second watering but wasn't happy so I did an additional 15 seconds. On the way back from Home Depot I stopped into Bojangles and picked up a 3 piece dinner with dirty rice. They were giving away free iced tea for some reason. I watched Gigante Sabado tonight. This program sure has the babes and is quite entertaining. I would like to figure out what they're saying. The pi sprinkler is working perfectly. I named it gilda since this afternoon I listened to Rigoletto as the first Metropolitan opera broadcast of the season. Horestovsky as Rigoletto is quite good.

~

December 08, 2013 gilda

Libbie left Providence at 7 am which meant she got up even earlier to get to the airport. It's supposed to snow in Baltimore where she changes planes and ice in counties West and North of here. She got here on time without incident. We're having a cold rain. I spent the time this morning running the ethernet cable from Gilda to the office closet.

Is topped to get Libbie at the airport then we went shopping in Kroger for all the ingredients to cook the party food. I bought a 9 pound pork shoulder and the ingredients to make the rub and baked beans and brunswick stew. In the late afternoon I put the connectors on the cable and tried it out and everything worked the first time. Hurray!!!!

Libbie made her yummy pizza for us tonight.

~

December 09, 2013 cooking day

I started at 6 AM today and put the pork roast in the oven at 275. Last night I put together the rub and worked it into the roast. Libbie took the roast out of the oven and switched it to the disposable aluminum pan. I want it to cook for 8 hours at this speed or until the interior temperature is 190 or better. At 190 the roast falls apart, at 180 it can be sliced and stays together. I want it to fall off the bone for pulled pork. I also started baking cookies - the lemon ones and the peanut butter chocolate and peppermint ones we previously practiced on. When the roast was done I let it rest and cool then tore into it with while wearing latex glove. Using a fork and sharp knife it was easy to pull all the meat off the bone and pull off the skin.

This was good. For dinner we had the oulled pork and cole slaw that I made. We had a few cookies for dessert. It was a tiring day but good.

~

December 10, 2013 party and waltz

This morning I turned the Brunswick Stew off. It was done and looked pretty good. After breakfast I went to Home Depot and bought materials to make a red bow for the wreaths. I built two wreaths from the greens

I picked up yesterday at Home Depot. At 11 we turned everything back on for the noon party. Everything went well, I think everyone enjoyed the food. It was a very tiring day but I was pleasantly satisfied.

In the evening we went to Carolina Ballroom and participated in the Waltz Amalgamation session. It was a big class and I had some difficulty remembering all the steps. I'm convinced Andrew is not a very good instructor but we go along with it. For dinner we had the BBQ and cole slaw.

~

December 11, 2013 dance

Back to eating light today. We went for our dance lesson at 3:30 which was very good. We did waltz back to back and front facing boxes. We need to practice this some more. The hard part is my twinkle and throw out before doing the front facing and back to back boxes. Fun. Dinner was left over BBQ with cole slaw and Baked beans.

~

December 12, 2013 Esquires

I got back into B4A on the tablet. There is so much I forgot that today turned out to be a learning exercise. By late afternoon I was actually sleepy and rested on the bed while Libbie started getting ready for Esquires tonight. We left at 6 but traffic on 64 was stopped, then the beltline had several trouble spots. Six Forks Rd was even worse as we went to the country club. When we reached 540 on 6 forks I realized that the country club must not be on 6 forks. We pulled over, dug out the GPS and tried again. It took us nicely onto Falls of The Neuse Rd and then I found the clubhouse ignoring the GPS that wanted us to turn in a weird direction. The party was excellent. We arrived at 7 PM instead of the planned 6:30 but we were fine. We had a glass of wine before dinner. It was a buffet with salmon and prime rib carved. The food was excellent. Dessert was blueberry cobbler and also a piece of chocolate cake. We danced all night until 10:30 to a 12 piece orchestra. The other members of the Esquires are very very good dancers, some of them almost as good as Robert.

~

December 13, 2013 dance

Stayed indoors all day today until time to go out. Worked on reading about B4A projects and found a sample program to read a CSV file. Joe Bruns has given me his database in CSV format. Late afternoon I worked on putting the LEDs and fringing on my San Francisco sweatshirt for the tacky sweater contest. It was fun. We went over to Dance early and did a little bit of Samba with Andrew's group class. We enjoyed dancing very much. winner of the tacky sweater contest was Nancy, an attractive and laughing thin girl. She wore a skirt made of a tree bottom cover and had glitter and funny elf like shoes. She was cute. We sat with her last night at our table at the Esquires dinner. I posted the posed Christmas tree picture of Lib and I on Facebook. 21 people have liked it so far. Too cool. I'm still having trouble with the waltz and connecting turns going down the line of dance. Need to really concentrate on this.

~

December 14, 2013 Falstaff

It's supposed to be a rainy day today. We got going to Falstaff today at noon. We allowed a little more time so we wouldn't get stuck in Christmas shopping traffic. Took Tryon and had no problems getting to the theater. Traffic was heavy but we navigated it well and got to the theater a half hour early. The performance was wonderful, it was played campy. Falstaff is huge, the other two ladies are no dainty ones either. It's the 1,000 pound cast with all three of them. Totally enjoyable and wonderful performance. When we got out it was pouring big time. We made a run for the car. On the way home we decided we were not going to stop for groceries for dinner. We did a Chinese takeout consisting of rice, 3 meat Szechuan and egg rolls accompanied by a bottle of Shiraz. Very nice. My maglite came today. It's an incredibly nice flashlight. I'm going to hang it in my closet. I bought the hanging hooks with it also. I could probably have done just as well from Amazon.

~

December 15, 2013 slow day

Today is Sunday. Didn't do much - worked on the computer a little, showed Libbie how to use the Pi program to water the violets. She watered the one shelf that was new for 22 additional seconds after we wet the empty mats down yesterday for 30 seconds. We also added the shelf to the watering program. In the evening Libbie made her excellent pizza while I studied some PHP programs to see if I can make it easier for someone to change the members section password.

~

December 16, 2013 chicken

Libbie worked at mail order while I went up on the greenhouse roof and removed the shade cloth. Today is a light eating day so we had a rotisserie chicken with squash for dinner. I'm planning to use the chicken leftovers to make a chicken pot pie tomorrow.

~

December 17, 2013 Pot Pie

Purchased all the ingredients for a pot pie today. Made the pot pie in the afternoon with the chicken leftovers. We had it with Pinot Grigio which went into the pie. We went to waltz amalgamations after dinner. I danced with the very attractive Mary as well as Libbie and Jennifer. I still didn't get the pattern we were doing. The Raspberry Pi is doing a great job at serving music to our stereo. I used it for Christmas Music.

~

December 18, 2013 dance

This morning I played some more with the control program for a pi to learn php. In the afternoon we went to dance class where Robert set us straight on the Foxtrot and we also practiced turn on the waltz. We went to the Post Office with Christmas cards after dance then stopped by Trader Joes. Dinner was leftover Chicken Pot Pie.

~

December 19, 2013 viennese waltz

Did a little garden work today folding the shade cloths and cleaning up the tomatoes, squash and cucumber grow boxes. Libbie raked and I spread the resulting pine needles around the azaleas in back. We did a Kroger trip for white fish and ingredients for our ham delights for tomorrows dance party. This afternoon I worked on getting the Google Chromecast to work. The secret ended up being installing it on Libbie's laptop and getting a button offering to update the firmware in the device. After the update it attached to the WiFi network and started accepting streams. I was disappointed in what could be streamed.

It doesn't recognize some file types and only streams from a few apps.

One of the apps is Google chrome but Chrome won't do MKV files.

I purchased an app for the Tablet that works with Chromecast that makes it better. We had a dinner of leftover squash, brown rice and baked white fish with Panko crumbs. After dinner we went to Viennese Waltz at 7:15 with Andrew. We had a nice small group of 6 which included the ladies Jennifer, Libbie and Mary. I did a video tape at the end of Andrew and Mary waltzing the length of the ballroom. When we came home I tried listening to WCPE but the signal is very noisy. I successfully tuned into WCPE on the browser and then used Chromecast to send it to the TV. I need to work on the antenna some more.

~

December 20, 2013 Christmas Party

Another nice day. More outdoor garden work. We had a very light dinner of zesty beef and barley soup. Left at 7 for the 7:15 Ballroom Christmas party. We brought our Ham Delites which once again were a hit. It was nice seeing everyone dressed up. We're still having trouble dancing anything that's a little complicated. I guess it needs a little more practice. Not sure how to do this. There were quite a few pretty women there - Angela who said she followed Andrew from another studio and of course Nancy in a slinky white gown. Erica was there home from college for the holidays with a boyfriend who didn't know how to dance. It was a nice night. We won the third place prize and it was 2 free lessons. Nice. Our investment was \$100, payback was worth \$150

at regular rates, \$128 at Festival Victory party rate.

~

December 21, 2013 77 degrees

Went to Kroger for lawn mower gas and ingredients for Lemon Spinach chicken.

It hit a high of 77 today, unusual for the first day of winter.

I mowed the Japanese Iris down while Libbie worked on cleaning up the rest of the garden. It looks pretty nice. Dinner was salad, lemon spinach chicken and Shiraz. ginger Spice cake was the dessert. I really like the Raspberry Pi music player - it's spitting out non stop christmas music.

~

December 22, 2013 Chromecast

This morning I got a copy of Saturday Night Live and we watched it over the Chromecast. It had quite a bit of stuttering. I plugged the drive into the router and tried streaming from there and all the stuttering was gone. I can only think the issue is between my laptop and the router. Too much stuff going on in the laptop. We did soome garden work, I worked on the FM antenna and managed to trip with the 20 foot pole and destroy the thing. I put it back up all mangled. Came back in and watched christmas Vacation streaming it from the router which worked very well. It never missed a beat despite being in high definition. Dinner was Libbie's wonderful pizza. I finished my Christmas cards after dinner. Sadly I found that Ed Glembocki had died in March. I looked up his obituary when I had not received a card from him.

~

December 23, 2013 ceilings

I started working on removing the popcorn ceiling in the foyer. It seems to be going well. I had to run out to Home Depot to get another plastic tarp to cover the floor and also a sponge. It's pouring rain today but warm. A good day for indoor projects. I did some research today on the Infocast I bought a few years ago and how to replace the

firmware to repurpose it. I want a digital picture frame with big numbers to represent greenhouse, plant room and outdoor temperatures and possibly a few other parameters. It may be more worthwhile to build a stand for a nook and tether it to a power cord instead of repurposing the Infocast. Dinner was leftover chicken and pasta casserole with rice mixed in. I picked up Spinach today to go in this mixture but Libbie forgot to put it in. We now have 2 bags of lettuce and a bag of spinach in the refrigerator.

~

December 24, 2013 xmas eve

The UPS guy delivered the LED lights this morning for the garage fluorescent fixtures. I started working on the fixture after a Kroger trip for senior day on Christmas Eve. The first light went up easily but the next one had problems because the lamp holders are shunted instead of individual wires. I went to Lowes one hour before the early Christmas Eve closing and found non shunted lamp holders. Bought them and hooked everything up in the evening. While out today I also bought some Russell Stover to be from Santa. I stayed up pretty late working on the AVM indices for the AVSA website. Dinner was Spiral ham with sweet potato and Shiraz and broccoli.

~

December 25, 2013 Christmas

Libbie went down first and made the coffee. We had ham and eggs for breakfast then opened presents later. It was a quiet Christmas Day. It was also cold but we went outside anyway for a walk around Seagrove Farm. Dinner was ham, sweet potato and Shiraz. After dinner we drove around the neighborhoods and even went up to Dr Pauls house on Green Level Church Rd. We parked the car and walked around the front yard admiring the hundreds of inflatables and spotlights everywhere. What a show. We tried driving out Olive Chapel later looking for Judy Howells place but never found it. She too has Christmas lights most years.

~

December 26, 2013 bathroom

I spent all morning loading spreadsheet files into the AVSA database for the annual magazine index. I got all the years loaded. After lunch we went over to Home Depot and ordered a countertop for the bathroom. It will be around \$750. I also need to order a sink and faucets. I resumed scraping the foyer ceiling. Arlene called to tell me Ed Glembocki died which I knew. She heard from Dotsy Hughes. Also dead are Linda Cook, Joan Cook's daughter and Albert Stanski of Skillman. We made ham sandwiches for dinner but got delayed because Joe called about his Christmas.

~

December 27, 2013 scraping

I worked on getting the ceiling scraped around the edges. This is a messy job. Dinner was 15 bean soup with cornbread and shiraz. Libbie used the ham bone to make the soup. Very good.

~

December 28, 2013 day off

I took a day off from scraping the ceiling. I didn't feel like getting all dirty and covered with white powder from the ceiling. I added the photographic index to the AVSA website and heard from Terry, the person who now is doing the annual index. Went to the Cary mall around lunchtime to look at mattresses. We visited Macy's then bought a Serta Posturepedic in Sears. We got an additional 10% off from some promo they had going. We also get two pillows free with a mail in certificate.

Cost was \$840. Delivery in about a week. The mall was surprisingly easy to navigate. Dinner was a ham and pineapple stirfry with peppers and rice that Libbie found online. It was quite good. We had it with Shiraz.

~

December 29, 2013 another day off

It's pouring rain today. Rain gauge shows 1.73 inches before it was all done. The sun came out later in the afternoon. It was another day off from scraping the ceiling. I worked a lot online and ended up downloading Saving Mr Banks with Tom Hanks. I stayed up until midnight watching it but thought it was about 30 minutes too long. I would rather see the movie about 90 minutes long instead of 120. I also had a hard time understanding the British accents, they tend to mumble to my ear. Dinner was another wonderful Libbie pizza. She used the parmesan garlic olive oil we received from the Benzigers for Christmas.

~

December 30, 2013 Foyer

I tried washing the foyer ceiling but eventually ended up sanding it. It doesn't look too bad. It may need plaster in a few spots. That was the extent of my labor for today. I downloaded some movies from torrents. Libbie and I watched "The Silver Lining Playbook" which was excellent. Dinner was BBQ on a bun with a salad. Nice.

~

December 31, 2013 Party

This is New Years Eve. I lightly sanded the bathroom patches for painting and Libbie went out to Home Depot to buy paint. In the afternoon Libbie made her Tex Mex dip which we brought to the party. We had the Tex Mex for dinner with tortilla chips. We listened to Die Fledermaus live from the met then left at 9 for the party which started at 9. When we got to Carolina Ballroom the parking lot was empty. We didn't think too many would come but eventually the ballroom filled up with all the regulars. I think we did much better at the waltz but I still regret we can't do much more than basic steps. Robert had a TV in the ballroom so we could watch the ball drop at midnight. We danced until 12:30 then left while the party was still going on. Not sure of the ending time but we were done. We were pleasantly tired and fell asleep right away when we got home.

~