

January 01, 2015     rose parade

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It was a relaxing day today as we pondered last night. The evening was not what we expected but the food was good. The band and the slobbs at our table were not great. This morning we watched the Rose parade then went to the clubhouse for lunch. After a shrimp roll and a beer we went out to Publix for groceries. After groceries I tried some more on installing the bridge on IOS and finally succeeded. I had to use Chrome to do the job instead of Safari. We then went for a bike ride up the legacy trail North to Culver Park and back. Dinner was the rest of the shrimp roll with chips and a glass of wine.

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January 02, 2015     ios

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I made quite a bit of progress today on the First Class program on IOS.

I am able to populate a list and swipe through it. Next step is to populate it with violets and select one for display. We were going to go to Selby but remembered that we committed to help take down the Christmas decorations on the building. We already mentioned that we don't have room anymore for storing the lights. Taking it all down was easy. Libbie, I and Sally did all the work. Christa and Peter came later to help. They were out to lunch. We met the neighbors downstairs.

They are from Ontario. We also met the NC people directly above us. They come from Southern Pines. We learned that 301 is a usable way to come down without the traffic. For dinner we went over to the clubhouse at 6:30 PM. We both ordered the seafood pasta which included grouper and lobster on a bed of pasta Alfredo. A glass of wine complemented our meal.

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January 03, 2015     selby

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Worked on First Class some more this morning before we went out to Walmart for more groceries. Had a salad lunch then we went out to Selby. We always enjoy that place. They seem to have quite a few visitors.

A wedding was getting ready to possibly start tonight. The ladies were all dressed in Peach gowns. I enjoyed a photography exhibit in the Selby House. The theme was Florida Eden and were all BW images of Florida nature like the Everglades, Myakka, etc. I enjoyed a slide show in the exhibit of more of the photographers work. When we got back Christa and Peter were cleaning out their condo and gave Libbie a sewing machine and a few trays of sewing threads and thimbles.

For dinner

we had a salad, this followed cheese and crackers beforehand.

We had an early dinner during the sunset then got ready for "Salute to Vienna" tonight.

The performance was at 8 in Van Wezel.

I loved it even though the tenor and soprano were miked. It was a combination of light classics, opera in solos and duets, ballroom dance and ballet. The ballet was a little different since there were only 2 guys for 4 girls. There were 4 ballroom dancers, 2 couples. We got out at 10:30 in 71 degrees. It's supposed to get colder later this week.

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January 04, 2015      Legacy Trail with Bill

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We were watching CBS this Morning when Bill called that he was on his way to our condo and was about 15 minutes away. I called the gate to allow him clearance and then went to Publix for Chicken Salad and other lunch fixings including chips and potato salad. After a nice lunch we went outside to get our bikes ready. I pumped up the tires on my manual bike while Barbara took my electric. We went up to the community gardens on the trail for about a 6 mile round trip ride. I did quite well pedaling but it was brutal around the Clubside lake where there was a headwind and I ended up downshifting to 1st gear. Afterwards we rested in the living room before Bill and Barb left. I saw Bill's bike rack and decided I need something better. We stayed in for dinner after thinking about going out to get pizza. We had chicken salad sandwiches and chips and wine, basically the leftovers from lunch.

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January 05, 2015      ios development

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Christa is cleaning out her apartment and gave Libbie a Kenmore sewing machine which she is really happy about. We did not go biking today. I played a lot with the IOS app, trying to figure out how to display multiple pages which is different from the way it's done in Android. Weather is still a very comfortable 81 degrees. Dinner was the leftover bean soup mixed with Progresso and our salad which I love since it's a spiced up Ceasar.

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January 06, 2015      waterway

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This afternoon we hooked up the bikes and drove down to the Venice Waterway.

We had a lovely bike ride to the beach. Sightings along the way included a Gopher turtle, a bald Eagle perched on top of a lone pine tree and a scrub jay, my first. Beautiful. Of course we had trouble finding the train station at first like we usually do. The weather was perfect, I enjoyed the waterway and the ride along the beachfront.

We did a total of 10.6 miles. In the evening I continued the IOS development. This time I found I need to read separate table for the photo credits. Will tackle that tomorrow. Dinner was at the clubhouse where we had the Cod crusted with dijon pretzel crumbs and veggies.

We came home and listened to the Merry Widow which sounds a little below the Met standards. It's more suitable for musical theater on Broadway.

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January 07, 2015      water filter

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This morning I went out to retrieve my water filter which came in. We drove to the Home Depot on Cattleman to get it. We also stopped at Albrittons for Oranges and produce. This is always a yummy time. Picked up a few items such as salad greens at Publix then tried the filter at home. It didn't fix the problem which seems to be in the base unit.

This is too bad since the filters cost \$40.

Went over to the Clubhouse

for pub night. We sat at a table with two other couples and had a delightful time. Bob and Phyllis are from NH are only here for one month. Terry and Su are from Indiana and are here for the season.

I ordered the blackened salmon which was outstanding. We stayed way

past closing just chatting and sipping our wine. This was a nice night.

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January 08, 2015      Whimsy

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I did a lot of online research about trailer hitches and decided I wanted a Thule T2. Stopped in Trek but they didn't have it. Next stop was Ryder downtown. They said they could get it from their Bradenton store. I went for it and had them order it. They called later and said it was in. I told them I would like it assembled and will get it in the morning. Next stop was the Whimsy Museum. What a delight! We met Mary Lee also known as Marietta. The art on the walls was outstanding. Original paintings by Backus and also Highwayman James Gibson were a thrill. The others are high quality as well. For dinner we went to the club and each had Prime Rib with baked potato and wine. Later I tried to get Merry Widow tickets but both Sarasota theaters were sold out as well as Port Charlotte. What a disappointment.

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January 09, 2015      bike rack

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This morning I tried to get a scrolling label working in IOS with no success. Ended up putting the text into a textview for now. Around 10 we left for the downtown bike shop. They had my bike rack which they shipped from Bradenton and had assembled it. I spoke with the guy who put it together. He was very helpful and was even willing to carry it out to my car. I carried it and installed it without much problem. I really like the sturdiness and quality of the rack. Next stop was JoAnn Fabric where Libbie bought a large cutting board for 50% off. It still was \$35 but it was a Fiskar which is a good name. We took a local bike ride around the neighborhood. With my pullover it was fairly comfortable although it was cool with air temps around 65. We wanted to eat light tonight so we stayed in and had cheese & crackers and then soup with a peanut butter sandwich. Today I bought Merry Widow tickets for the Pinellas theater. After this I found that the Sarasota theater opened a third screen and had tickets available. Bad timing.

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January 10, 2015     Aida

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We did a little grocery run this morning to Walmart and also topped off the gas tank which was down to 1/4 tank. The price was 2.11 which was the lowest it has been in a few years thanks to low oil prices per gallon. This can't last. Picked up some butterfly mollies and mounted the LED strip light above the Washing Machine/Dryer. I really like it! At 1 PM I listened to Aida live from the Met. Aida was great by Tamara Wilson but Giordano was not great at all. He sounded all wrong. I continued the IOS app, this time reading about how to do navbar and toolbar menus.

We went over to the clubhouse for dinner at 6:30.

They were lightly busy tonight. I had the New York Strip steak which was delicious. It came with veggies and mashed potatoes. Libbie ordered a decadent chocolate tort for dessert which I had a piece of accompanied by coffee. It was a nice night out but we have to stop eating like this.

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January 11, 2015     Myakka

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After the morning news shows we loaded up the bikes on our new bike carrier and went to Myakka Park. We met another couple there who were first time Sarasota winter residents. It's amazing the number of people who are retiring and arriving in Florida. We split a turkey and cheese sandwich in the Outpost Cafe which came with kettle chips. It was quite good. We pedaled out to the Audubon boardwalk where a large black bird was interested in our bike packs. I threw my helmet at him to shoo him away. After this we had a leisurely ride back to the visitors center. I was tired but satisfied. We chose to have soup and salad for dinner instead of going out. We watched the beginning hour of the Golden Globes before falling asleep then went to bed and slept well.

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January 12, 2015     waltz dance

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It rained all day today. We stayed in which gave me a chance to work on the IOS app and make significant progress getting the pictures displayed and first letter search working. We ate light today, salad and beef pot pie soup for dinner. We left at 6:30 for the next group Waltz lesson. I video taped the review that Stephen and Chaka did at the beginning of the lesson. We got better each time on the waltz steps. I still can't get left and right turns down straight. This needs some conscientious work. During the Open dance portion which started at 8 PM we met a NC couple from Greensboro, Terri and Sylvia. She just retired as an OB and he was an investment banker. We had some snack food during the party - veggies, cookies and cake.

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January 13, 2015     sharkys pier

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The sun was out so we loaded the bikes and drove to the Venice waterway for our ride. Drove to the beach then to Sharkys Pier where we made a reservation outdoors for lunch. We each had the crab cake with a Yuengling. Thank goodness for eBikes since we were able to pedal the 6 miles back to our car after eating all this. Dinner was only a bowl of soup and a salad then we watched "Boyhood" which was an excellent movie. At the train station today we found an Osprey nest and also one of the Ospreys on a telephone pole eating a fish. Also met another couple who were retiree first timers. There are so many of them.

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January 14, 2015     dunedin

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We left at 9:30 for Bradenton. Stopped at Bills condo and picked them up then headed for Dunedin. Barbara and Libbie went quilt shopping. I walked through the store then went for a walk along the Bayfront. It was beautiful with big older homes, Live Oaks and a one lane road that was dirt at times running along the bay. After the ladies purchased their fabrics we had lunch at the Dunedin Brewery. This was excellent. Libbie and I split a plate of BBQ sliders with beer infused bbq sauce. I had a dark Belgium beer to go with lunch. It was all very very good. We had a long ride back since we had to creep and crawl through Bradenton. We went out at 6:50 for dinner for pub night. Our

friends Terri and Su had just been seated and invited us over to join them which we did. We had a delightful dinner. Libbie had fish Tacos and I had the Sheperds Pie. It was good but I wouldn't order it again since it was made with hamburger meat and not what I expected. The top was covered with mashed potatoes. A piano player by the name of Mike Real played an outstanding run of songs including Crying by Roy Orbison, McArthur Park, The entertainer and the Piano Man.

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January 15, 2015     Robinson Preserve

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We left our condo at 9 am in a light misty fog. We had to use the wipers. Went up I-75 to FL70 to 30 then FL64E to 75th in Bradenton. On FL64 we stopped at a subway and had a 6 inch turkey and cheese sub made for our lunch. The young girl behind the counter was very friendly. We took our condiments in packets so the bun wouldn't get soppy before lunch which was several hours away. We met Bill, Cort and Barbara in the parking lot of the Robinson Preserve. They rented 2 Pedagos in addition to Bill's and they were being delivered which was amazing. We had a very cold but fun bike ride through the preserve. We had our lunch in the preserve at a picnic table which came after a very long curvy bridge. I drove across the bridge with my video cam running which was fun. We got back to the car at 2 after 13 miles. My fingers were cold and it started misty rain again. We had no trouble shooting back on 75 at 70 MPH. The new bike rack performs well. At 7 we left for the clubhouse and had a prime rib dinner with asparagus and baked potato. I had a Yuengling to accompany it. Interestingly they were sampling martinis in the lobby which we tried. The blueberry martini was very fruity and tropical like. I also tried a glass of some kind of Vodka that had blue in the name. IT was pretty smooth, not sure of it's name. Our time in the restaurant was pretty quick since we were served promptly, the drinks came almost instantly and just as we took a roll, the food arrived. Wow!

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January 16, 2015     day off

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We decided to make this an indoor day. I spent a lot of time on the computer getting organized and updating files. Next I replaced the toilet

seat in the bathroom after cleaning the toilet bowl. This went well but I don't like the cheap plastic toilet seat. It works well, however. Next I had to deal with the sink water filtering. The new cartridges didn't fix the GE filter, water still won't flow. It's a known design flaw in the system. I bought a generic carbon filter but it requires 3/8 tubing and the existing GE uses 1/4 inch tubing. I would need a new tee on the supply line and also a new faucet. I went to Lowes to study what my options would cost. I found a new faucet for \$53 and a tee valve for \$16. There are three different size valves, I would need to buy 2 of them and return one to get the right size. As my last option I found a chrome screw in plug for the hole in the sink. I chose to go with this for \$3.99. When I got back I removed the rest of the filter and restored the cold water to original. I still haven't put the plug into the sink hole but that's enough for one day. We went to dinner around 7. We sat with another couple from Arbor Green apartments. They don't have to be golf members in that community which is great. they only paid \$155k for 1400 sq feet but there still is no garage. I would like more room and a garage without the golf fee. I had the clam chowder which was full of clams and yummy accompanied by two blackened shrimp tacos. Loved the spice on the shrimp and there were plenty of shrimp. Very nice evening.

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January 17, 2015      Merry Widow

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It was a low key morning. I worked on the Pittman article and sent it to Marjorie. We then left just before 11 for the theater in Pinellas Park which is between Clearwater and St Pete. We got there around noon and started looking for the Subway which was supposed to be out front. We cruised the parking lots but couldn't find the Subway. Went to the theater parking lot and got parking in front which was a surprise. The theater was sold out. We thoroughly enjoyed the performance although not Renee Fleming. The key was way too low for her to comfortably sing. We got out and onto the road without any problems although the shopping center was very busy. Where 275 meets up with 75 there was a speed trap. They had 3 cars pulled over in 3 separate stops. Traffic which had really been moving along had slowed to less than 50 mph. At home we had wine and cheese and watched a glorious sunset. We chose to stay in for dinner and had salad with Italian sausage soup which I really liked. Libbie didn't so this may not be in our repertoire.



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January 18, 2015      celery fields

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This morning I finished the sink job by putting some plumber's putty around the plug and screwed it down. It looks pretty good. I tried an update to avsa.org and had much trouble. The View module disappeared. when I reinstalled it the view was still not recognized. I did a manual install and magically everything started working again. In the meantime I was in near panic for several hours of no web site. I did find that I can not use any of the alternate search engines for the site since they require Apache extensions not supported by host gator.

I will figure out how to configure google search for our site. After lunch we loaded the bikes and went to the celery fields. Saw a number of water birds and a new little one - the Palm Warbler. In the evening we ordered a pizza from Valentinos. There was one small glitch. I was sitting in the restaurant waiting for our pizza after having paid. I enjoyed watching the blonde girl with pony tail and nice tee shirt behind the counter. Actually there were 5 young pretty girls. After 20 minutes Lib came in and inquired. The pizza was sitting on the oven all along, finished. Libbie watched Downtown Abbey while I finished the Games novel which was a letdown since it is one of 3 books and didn't complete in this book.

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January 19, 2015      party

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I spent most of the day indoors working on Google Custom Search. Finally got it working. Did a Lowes trip to return the water filter. The return line was long but I was determined. While there I also looked at tomato seeds. I may start my own this year. This afternoon we mixed the cream cheese and mushroom mixture and filled the puff pastry sheets. I cut them up and placed them on parchment paper on the cookie sheets. I had to go next door to Sally to borrow a cookie sheet. We took it out 10 minutes before the party and carried them over. They went over well. the plates was cleaned out. The party was pretty nice. Met lots of people, ate too much good finger food. Loved the chicken balls in BBQ sauce the best. They were made by the couple renting 2107. We left at 7 for dance. The group lesson started at 7 but

we chose to arrive late. We caught the end and video taped the rest of the pattern. I finally figured out the waltz but really got tired by 9:30 so we left. Had to turn around and go back since Libbie forgot her purple jacket.

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January 20, 2015      search

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This morning I found the Google Custom search box was not showing in either firefox or IE. Worse, i later found it didn't show in chrome unless signed in as an administrator. I tinkered most of the morning and found that if I used the Google CSE object instead of custom search, all worked well. Apparently the module I loaded using Google CSE works but the homemade one I created did not. We went out and found the party store. This is my first time in one, I was blown away. Libbie bought a purple wig for Mardi Gras. We practiced a little both waltz routines - the kick and the right/left turns. Dinner tonight was at the clubhouse. We each had beef ribs with chipotle sauce which was nice and spicy. Bob and Phyllis from NH joined us. It was a delightful conversation with them, discussing places to eat, etc. Got back around 8:30 from a 6:30 dinner. I also had a martini with olive during dinner. I had been threatening to do this for years. Tonite I did it. Of course the encouragement was a few days ago when there was a Martini sampling bar.

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January 21, 2015      venice

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Decided to take a long bike ride today. We started out with the bay as our goal on the Legacy Trail but made it to the middle of the Tamiami bridge in Venice. The total was 9.8 miles one way. the electric propulsion made things easier. Earlier in the morning we cooked the mushrooms and mixed the ingredients including cream cheese to refrigerate for later. Around 4 PM we rolled the pastry shells, filled them and cut them in squares. Cooked them at 400 for 15 minutes or until they were brown. They were delicious. We brought them over to Peter and Christa's at 6. Joining us for dinner were Edmond and Sandra from the UK and Mark and Sally from next door. Sally made a veggie platter which was delicious. Sandra brought a cake called Eton Mess which is a UK specialty. Christa made a Key Lime pie. Dinner was Veal in a wine sauce with Pasta noodles and the veggies. We started with a Ceasar salad which was yummy. We had a really enjoyable evening.

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January 22, 2015      myakka

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We loaded up the bikes and left for Myakka at 9:50. Bill and Barb were going to meet us there after renting a bike in Anna Marie. They called at 9:20 to say they were on their way. Today was Barbara's birthday, we wished her a Happy Birthday. We went all the way to the end of the park with a very nice stop at the bird walk boardwalk. Had a nice chat with a volunteer who moved from Connecticut. He was quite knowledgeable about birds and was using an app from Sibley on his phone. We stopped for lunch at the Outpost where I split and turkey and cheese sub with Libbie. I had a Florida Swamp Ape IPA beer which was 10% with double hops. It was bitter but I finished it. Libbie didn't like it at all. We finished up around 2:30. It was 84 degrees on my car thermometer. For dinner we went to the clubhouse at 6:30. We

met a nice Canadian couple, Gerry and Mark (short for Margaret) from near Toronto. They are moving on to Hilton Head on Feb 1. We enjoyed the dinner conversation covering their cottage on the lake in Northern Canada and their Son in Sidney Australia. I ordered the Prime Rib with baked potato and veggies. A glass of Cabernet accompanied the meal.

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January 23, 2015      tires

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It was supposed to rain today but it never happened. We went out to Costco to see about buying tires but they only take American Express after we buy a membership. The girl, Sasha, at the tire desk was very nice. I also got a quote at Sears but they were ridiculously high.

I made an online appointment at Tire Kingdom for 4 PM and they took me right away and had all my paperwork. The job took 49 minutes. I purchased 4 Michelin Defender tires for \$565 bottom line which I didn't think was too bad. In addition we get a 2% Visa rebate plus a \$70 Michelin rebate so the whole thing. I returned the cookie sheet to Sally and Mark and spent some time other there as they showed me around.

Libbie ended up coming over as well when I didn't return. We went over to the clubhouse for dinner and both had a seafood dish over Linguini with clam sauce. It was excellent. Accompanying this was a glass of house Cabernet. I was really stuffed in a very nice dining experience.

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January 24, 2015      opera

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Stayed in this morning doing some file organization and scanning of the Michelin receipts to submit the rebate which I did online. I also created a Design Gallery on AVSA. This afternoon listened to La Boheme. Margaret is still sick which has been a long time. While La Boheme was playing I communicated with Marjorie about the content of the design gallery. In the evening we went out to the Clubhouse where I ordered the seafood over pasta. There was a max of seafood and a minimum of pasta. Very filling. The sauce was a tomato vodka sauce. Libbie had a yummy smelling chicken vegetable soup and coconut Shrimp for the meal. We came home pretty tired and went to bed at 9. Before

dinner we did the 2 mile walk around the subdivision in a very cold and very windy wind. It was only in the low 60s and highly overcast. The wind made it feel colder than it was.

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January 25, 2015      swan lake

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Watched the morning shows and purchased a watercolor figure class from Art tutor for half price, \$40. I downloaded it and also archived it to OneDrive. We went to the mall to Sarasota 12 and watched the Swan Lake Bolshoi which I absolutely loved. Interestingly, one ballerina fell down in one of the 24 ballerina numbers near the beginning. The lady playing the swan, both black and white, was incredibly graceful and flexible. Loved her. The music of course is always a winner. My favorite host, Katerina Novikova was the host. Good deal. She is certainly beautiful.

For dinner we tried a different pizza place - Rico's behind the Gulf Gate Shopping Center on Gateway Drive. The place is a little hole in the wall but the pizza is excellent. We'll probably put them down for a return visit. Libbie watched Downtown Abby while I went to bed and continued to read "My Night with Kate" which is surprisingly good.

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January 26, 2015      Cold and windy

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It was pretty windy all day. We didn't go out. I am having pains in my knee. It started while painting the bathroom baseboard. For dinner we went to Bangkok Thai and had chicken pad Thai. Yummy! A major snowstorm is going to hit the northeast tonight.

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January 27, 2015      last day

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My knee is still in great pain today. We did some more cleanup in the condo before having a lunch of leftover Pad Thai. After lunch I loaded the rental bike and took it back to the Pedago store. Since it was

a beautiful sunny day we decided to also go to Selby where we enjoyed the tropical house, the butterfly and herb gardens and the plants in the gift shops. This was a nice way to spend the afternoon. On the way back we stopped in the Goodwill bookstore on Clark near McIntosh.

This place is a find with neatly arranged shelves of used books.

I bought a Sarasota History book. When we got back Peter and Christa offered me some of their History books they are leaving behind. I put some in my suitcase and others on our bookshelf in the condo. For dinner we went out to the clubhouse around 7. I ordered the shaved beef on buns with provolone and fries. accompanied by a Yuengling. The fries were yummy.

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January 28, 2015      travel home

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We got up early and started last minute cleaning and carrying stuff to the car. Our car is incredibly loaded including two bikes, libbie's Pedago and my 7 speed which I'm going to convert to electric. we got going at 8:37 Am. Stopped by dunkin donuts on Clark for coffee and a glazed donut. A little ways down the road on I-75 we found 2 lanes were blocked at university and traffic was backed up. what a start to the trip. we got off on university and wound our way through lakewood ranch and then got onto 70 before getting back on i-75. not sure if we saved anything but libbie commented we've been on the road for an hour and have only made it to lakewood Ranch. the rest of the trip was trouble free. traffic was light. We took i-4 and did a rest stop on i-95 before jacksonville then got off a few exits later and bought gas at raceway for 1.99. we had lunch in the car of the leftover shaved beef from last night on French bread. It was pretty nice. A honeybell along the way served as a snack. Around sunset in Walterboro we got gas for 1.89 at a murphy Oil in front of Walmart next to the highway and had the leftover swiss cheese and crackers. Got gas at one of the last exits in SC at a Love for 1.89 while Libbie talked on the phone to Joe. We got home around 8:20 including a stop at Wendys for 2 large bowls of chili. it was 34 outside so the warm chili bowls were a good dinner. The mailman brought our mail today stuffing the mailbox. The majority of it was junk mail except for our tax forms and some peanut brittle and business cards I ordered.

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January 29, 2015      back home

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Up this morning and discovered the hot tub leaked all over the back porch. Not sure what is wrong. Went to the shed and got the wet vac which Libbie used to remove the water from the floor. It looks like the spigot threaded fitting is leaking. I'll have to dump the water to fix. Dinner tonight was spaghetti with tomato sauce and cheese.

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January 30, 2015      party

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Installed Turbotax on my PC and also made an attempt to fix AVSA with no luck. We still can't delete content. I downloaded an old archive of the site and used Tartool to unpack it successfully. I copied over the old views module but it didn't help. We made the baked beans this afternoon for the party tonight. We left at 7 for the 7:30 party.

It was really great to see everyone again, quite a few came over to ask where have we been. We had ham and some delicious side dishes including shrimp salad, squash casserole and other items. Birthday cake rounded out the evening. We brought a bottle of Barefoot Merlot for the evening. It was nice to see the dance team from ECU at the party, the youthful dancing was fun.

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January 31, 2015      Hoffmann

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I worked on setting up the multimedia PC to record this afternoon's Hoffmann which we will attend. Ran over to Kroger for bread and also Salmon for tonight. Left for the theater at 12 for the 12:55 performance.

surprisingly our theater has gotten pretty good at controlling the lighting. The lights went down and up at the appropriate times. We had a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon. Came home and had salmon and broccoli for dinner. No wine since after a month of Florida we're both trying to cut back. I need it!!!

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February 01, 2015      silly bowl

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Worked on the hot tub today drained the water and removed the leaking spigot. I hope this was the problem. We also took down our Christmas tree today and put everything away. The silly bowl is on tonight we watched 60 minutes instead and then I listened to Rosenkavalier. Libbie made her yummy pizza from a dough ball she had in the freezer.

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February 02, 2015      hot tub  
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Finished up the hot tub today and carried 3 boxes of Christmas stuff to the attic. I hope this fixes the water leak on the hot tub. I ended up putting a glue ball valve inline and a straight hose fitting on the end of the pipe. We shall see if this is the problem. Started heating the water at 3:00 PM today.

I went out into the yard and measured a spot for the addition to our shed. By extending the back I can accommodate the lawn tractor and perhaps a few spreaders and misc stuff we don't use much. We ate light tonight with a salad covered with tuna fish. My knee is still hurting me, throbbing actually. I'm not sure what is wrong.

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February 03, 2015      groceries  
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Did the grocery trip this morning. The first in a while since we've been back from Florida. This afternoon I went to the greenhouse and took down the sign and cross piece. I want to use the 6x6 timbers for the foundation of a shed extension. The uprights seem to be cemented in the ground so I will chainsaw them flush to remove them. Dinner tonight was spaghetti with cheese and sauce.

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February 04, 2015      dance  
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I went and did it today. After studying the Opera and ballet choices yesterday I decided this morning to buy the tickets. We now have tickets to the ballet and Opera in Vienna. Now the real planning has to begin. In the afternoon we went to our first lesson since we've been back. Robert was great. We covered some more of the Foxtrot and also learned some amalgamations of grapevine and zigzag pairing it with a twinkle. We also did the open left turning combo with sway. Came home and had a nice salad with tuna then went back to the studio and learned some variations to the rumba as well as new Tango moves with Robert. We have a lot of content to practice.

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February 05, 2015      planning

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Did more planning today for Europe. I'm in a quandary with so much ground to cover. Did a Walmart trip for a heating pad which didn't help my knee. I also picked up coffee, cereal and salad dressing. In the PM Libbie made the Chicken Parmesan recipe from Cooking Light. Dinner was a salad with the Chicken parmesan.

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February 06, 2015      planning

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I did some serious trip planning today including a trip to Barnes and Noble in Cary for guide books about Austria and Switzerland. The trip is finally coming together. We can't do everything so I limited the trip to Lucerne and Bern in Switzerland and Salzburg and Vienna in Austria. Side trips to the Alps, Glarus and Peter and Christa will round out the trip. Dinner tonight was the last of the chicken Parmesan along with a yummy salad. Out to the studio party at 8 for a nice evening of dancing. We did Brewsters pub after dance until 11:45.

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February 07, 2015      leaves

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I spent the day doing a lot of trip planning learning about rail passes and pricing flight options. I worked outdoors today blowing out the

garage and the driveway. I also managed to change the oil, the oil filter as well as the cabin air filter and engine air filters that came from eBay. Dinner was shrimp with squash and the dry zinfandel from Ravenswood.

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February 08, 2015      hotels

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I managed to get all the hotels booked and am now fine tuning our trip with regards to transportation. This is going to be an expensive one. I came up with \$3,000 in hotel bills alone. I canceled the Berne portion of the trip and substituted a 3 day trip to the Alps which I'm hoping is going to be pretty nice. Libbie made her fantastic pizza from scratch this evening after going to the studio for Mardi Gras practice. Great job.

~

February 09, 2015      start losing weight fatso

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Libbie worked like crazy today packing her orders for shipping. It was mostly leaves though. The drive and memory came for the server today so I worked in my office getting that thing running which also included installing Windows 7. I have a long way to go with getting this machine running. I sure hope it has the performance I'm looking for.

The price was certainly right. The doctor pushed up my appointment from late June to April 2. This means I have to get busy losing weight since I have a personal goal of weighing less than on my last physical where I was down to 222 with clothes on. The scale said 236 today.

Too much good and bad eating. I want to see something around 210 and then eventually 200 pounds by the end of the year. Dinner was just a salad with tuna sprinkled on.

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February 10, 2015      violet club

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Went out this morning and purchased all the groceries as well as food for the violet club. It's a cold day after raining overnight. We had

a nice meeting about soil recipes. We served turkey and cheese sandwiches with creamy cole slaw buffet style. After the meeting I studied transportation costs in Switzerland vs the various rail passes. I settled on a half fare card and ala carte paying as well as the Bernise Oberland Region card as the most cost effective. Dinner was a salad with a little shredded turkey cold cuts over the top and the leftover cold slaw on the side. I was hungry but resisted all day. I'm really determined to take this excess weight off. My knee bothered me all night. I woke several times with throbbing pain. I wish this would heal. After dinner I listened to Iolantha live as well as Bluebeards castle. I like Iolantha but not Bluebeard s so much. I listened to it all the way through until 11 PM. During this time I researched the Austrian portion of our trip. A taxi from the airport to the hotel looks like the best option for \$30 to \$40 Euros. An Austrian rail pass is \$384. I haven't added up the costs of our journeys yet for the Austrian portion.

~

February 11, 2015      dance

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This morning I worked on getting the updates ready for the Bluebird site. I needed to change prices on trays and delete the the 5 inch pots plus some misc updates. Messed with Manon to do this stuff then turned on my new server to do a little more configuration. I deposited some checks in the CU this morning as well and then went with Libbie to get gas at Krogers. I was really out and have a few trips to dance scheduled as well as the greenhouse tomorrow to get the timbers for the new shed extension. Robert was sick so Mitzi did a fantastic job in teaching us how to Cha Cha. We learned a few more patterns beyond the basic that we know. Went to Trader Joes then returned home for a dinner of salad with turkey sprinkled over it. This is still part of my eating light program which I think is excellent. Andy did both the Rumba and the Tango class tonight. We learned a lot today. My knee was killing me during the 8 oclock Tango class, i considered stopping part way through but made it to the end. I was really tired.

~

February 12, 2015

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Libbie and I went to the greenhouse with the chain saw and cut down the two sign timbers and brought them home in the trailer. This will be the base for the shed extension laid directly on the ground with a layer of rock salt under them to protect against termites. This went surprisingly well. Before I did this I went to Lowes and purchased some 12 foot 2x6's for the decking and to obtain a plastic red flag to nail onto the portion of the timbers hanging out the back of the trailer. Only about 2 to 3 feet was hanging off the end which was less than I thought. My knee really hurts today so I'm trying to take it easy. Went to Krogers for a 9V battery for the low temp alarm in my office. It beeped all night long letting me know the battery was low. While in Kroger I ran into Janet Covington in the Valentine candy aisle. She stayed in Lautterbrunnen when she was in SWZ only at the end of the valley. She said they walked to the train station to do their journeys around the Alps. Dinner tonight was spaghetti and salad. The salad was normal size but only lettuce and tomato with dressing while the spaghetti was smaller sized with tomato sauce and a sprinkling of cheese.

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February 12, 2015      timbers

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February 13, 2015      knee pain

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It was a rough night last night. Lots of knee pain and I couldn't easily fall asleep. I seemed to be wired up, maybe from the diet hot chocolate.

I couldn't figure it out. I weighed in at 230 today. Better but still not satisfactory from my weight last year or even last Fall.

A long way to go.

I decided to get the tiller out of the shed.

this was a major job since it was in the back and required moving the garden cart and the lawn tractor. The tractor battery was dead so I rolled it backwards and Libbie helped me push it uphill back into the shed. I topped off the battery and hooked up the charger. The tiller wouldn't start, even after a trip to Walmart for a spark plug and a trip to Kroger for fresh gas. I did some diagnosis and found there was no spark. This is an old Briggs engine with a points and condenser ignition. I found I could order a magneto with solid state ignition to replace the old points. The official Briggs part is \$45 but I found an oem version for \$17 on eBay. My knee is killing me today so I wrapped it tightly and took an Ibuprofen before leaving for Esquires at 5:30. We left early since it took 50 minutes to get there last time but it only took 30 tonight. We sat in the parking lot for a little time then went inside at 6:15 and claimed a table for our group in the corner. It was a very fun evening. I did not have any alcohol. dinner was a salad, roll, potatoes, chicken pepperocina and a piece of fish. Desert was a yummy cream cheese cherry tort and a piece of Key Lime pie. This was quite a bit of food compared to what I normally have been having. Libbie and I did quite well with our dancing, even Tango and swing. We got home around 11 PM.

~

February 14, 2015      bluebeard et al

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This morning I looked at the generator since we had not heard it start and run a test cycle lately. I tried to manually initiate a test cycle and it just clicked like the battery was dead. Removed the battery but with it still attached and looked at the water levels. They were fine. The red charging light was on and the green charging light was blinking indicating the charge was between 80 and 100%. Tried another

test cycle and surprisingly it started. The battery is 5 years old this year. I will replace it since it doesn't have much life left anyway even though it will start the generator. Put everything back together because the opera starts at 12:30 today.

The theater parking

lot was full. This is the premier of 50 shades and they were running 4 screens with this. We were moved down the hall to the smaller screen 15 instead of our normal auditorium 20. This was a first time viewing of Lolanta and Bluebeard for us. Both Operas were surprisingly great. I couldn't believe I enjoyed Bluebeard as much as I did.

Soprano Nadja Michael was terrific. Not only did she have a good voice but her physicality was wonderful. She threw herself to the floor, did all kinds of contortions with her body including getting totally nude then standing up and putting a white robe on. The next act her she had on a white slip which was soaking wet and clingy to her ample erect boobs. She has a nice body! The opera did not have a happy ending, she joined Bluebeards other dead wives in the end in the 7th room. After the opera Libbie dashed into JoAnns while i waited in the car. I had my knee all taped up and an Ibuprofen in my wallet just in case. It was fine throughout the day. We stopped by Kroger on the way home and picked up one pound of shrimp. dinner was shrimp, broccoli, salad and shiraz. It was a nice Valentine evening to celebrate.

~

February 15, 2015      battery

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After the morning shows I went out to deal with the generator. Of course the thing started right up as if there was nothing wrong with the battery. Because of the age of the battery, 5 years this summer, I decided to replace it. Went to Walmart and picked up a new Model 26-3 battery. The store was pretty busy. I had to stand in line twice - once to buy the battery and again to return the core to get my \$12.82 back. I also picked up new post bolts and was glad I did since the old bolt on the positive terminal was in pretty bad shape. Put it all back together and ran a test cycle. Now we will have a test cycle every Sunday at around 5PM. I forgot to coat the terminals with Vaseline.

I will do that tomorrow. It's incredibly cold outside, I worked on the generator while it was in the 20s. My feet and my fingers were numb. Today my knee feels pretty good. I attribute that to resting in the theater yesterday and keeping it taped the last few days, allowing it to heal. Libbie went to Mardi Gras practice today at the studio

although the parade looks doubtful since we're supposed to get an ice or snow storm on Tuesday. We'll just have to see. We had Libbie's homemade pizza tonight.

~

February 16, 2015      trip

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I tried calling Blue Pay this morning about the PCI fee they assessed us. They couldn't help me. Will try later. Meanwhile, I booked our European plane tickets, RDU to Zurich for June. I added travel insurance while I was at it. They are predicting 1/2" of ice tonight.

This isn't good for the trees.

We had a salad with tuna over the top for dinner. I'm trying to get back in the swing of losing weight again after the weekend meals. It's sleeting as we went to bed. I tried recording La Donna Del Lago from Sirius using Mp3MyMp3 to record it but failed. At this point I'm not sure what's wrong.

~

February 17, 2015      frozen

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Woke this morning and went right to the window. Somehow the ice never happened. The trees look great but there is about an inch of white stuff on everything. Unbelievably a snow plow went down Downing Place, this after we got brined yesterday. Wow. We waited until after lunch then went to the grocery store. There was no problem with the roads. They were mostly wet where they were plowed. The worst was our driveway. We brought home a rotisserie chicken for dinner. I put it in the over with the light on to keep it warm. The walls of the oven were at 110F as measured by the IR thermometer. We had the chicken with a salad for dinner. I added a yogurt for dessert as we watched the 40th anniversary show of Saturday Night Live. It was quite funny and a great reminder of all the talent the show has gone through and spawned.

~

February 18, 2015      credit card

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I called Cap One late last night to ask about some suspicious charges on Libbie's card. There was a \$450 online purchase on the statement and they said there were 2 more online Walmart website purchases for over \$250 each. They shut the card off and are issuing a new one priority since we are traveling next week to NYC. Weight was a little disappointing, still holding at around 229-230. I have a long way to go but will keep at it. I went out today to the Credit Union to deposit a check. This is their first day back in 4 days and it showed since they were so crowded. I waited a long time at the screen for a teller to appear. We went to a very good waltz lesson with Robert. One of my biggest problems was not turning enough in the line of dance. He tried to fix that and I think it was a successful lesson. I really killed my knee doing the turns this afternoon but I think it was worth it. Mitzi closed the studio shortly after our lesson since the fear was the melted snow on the roads would freeze in the evening leading to problems with black ice. Dinner tonight was a salad and a side of a leftover piece of chicken from the rotisserie chicken. It was kind of bland so I added some Tapatio sauce to it making it pretty spicy and good. We're going into an extended period of cold weather starting today with nights in the single digits for the next two days.

~

February 19, 2015      cold

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It was darned cold this morning! Overnight low was 13, tomorrow even colder.

The only thing I did outdoors today was a Kroger trip for lettuce and Green tea and later in the day I took the garbage to the street and froze every part of my body. Libbie and I covered the Irises with the paint drop cloth and two sheets. I covered the corners with 8 bricks from the brick pile. They weren't easy to free up since they were frozen to each other. This is hard to believe in NC.

Dinner

tonight was a nice salad but this time with Ranch chipotle then spaghetti with tomato sauce and cheese. The ranch chipotle is OK and with a hot aftertaste but it doesn't have the spicey taste of the spicey caesar which I like a little better. This was worth a try and I'll finish it but I'm going back to spicy caesar. After dinner tonight we watched Birdman, another nominee for Best Picture this Sunday on the Oscars.

~



February 20, 2015      colder

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We woke this morning and it was 7 degrees out. Brrr. Disappointingly, I did not lose any weight in the last few days. Holding at 230. I need to get very serious. It didn't get too far into the twenties today.

It's a real cold one. Yesterday we covered the Irises with drop cloths to try to protect them. After only a salad for dinner we went to dance at 8 PM. The parking lot was an icy mess and pretty treacherous to walk on too. We met Lori from the studio all the way in the back lot and walked in together. We had fun at the party tonight.

Afterwards we went too McGregor Tavern where Libbie and I shared a plate of wings and had 2 IPA beers. She had Yuengling. We sat with the Rumleys and Anne and Paul Cain. To pay for it all (\$28) I used a \$70 Michelin rebate card which came in the mail today. At the Studio we heard from Mitzi about why we don't want to sit with the studio at Shriners tomorrow night. We told her we made these plans months ago. Harry Rumley heard the same thing from Mitzi.

~

February 21, 2015      shriners

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I was a little sore this morning but soon got over it. We were out of milk so i made a morning run to Kroger to get milk, wine for tonight and carrots. It's nicer out today. I removed the covering from the Irises after Don Giovanni which was the live Saturday afternoon matinee.

We got ready for Shriners and left the house a little after 5:30, arriving there at 6 PM. We had a nice table, table 4, up by the band and the dance floor. The studio was at tables 19 and 20. The food was great, the band was really good. i especially the tall slim lead singer. She was good and we had a chance to talk with her during one of her breaks. We complimented her on the excellent choices in music. What a nice night. At our table were Steve and nancy, Harry and Terry and Ken and Anita. I'm finally starting to get the hang of the Waltz.

We got home after 11 PM. The thawing is finally taking place, Hooray.

~

February 22, 2015      magneto

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We slept in this morning. I didn't get up until 7:30. Surprisingly after a night of dancing my knee felt pretty good. It's also back into the 50s outside which is good news. I dragged the roto tiller into the garage to replace the magneto. Unfortunately the mounting holes don't match the engine. Did some online research and found the correct model number for the solid state ignition magneto replacement. I will order it and try again. Too bad. I've been tracking the ontime performance of the Silver Star. It hasn't been good, being late from anywhere between one hour and 6 hours. I worked some more on the new server adding the second copy backup profile for the new uniserver and moving Apache to port 2206. Libbie's pizza really came out well tonight. I stayed up watching the Oscars until the end which ended after midnight. I also organized the Music folders and other files, including a rescan of the Logitech Media Server files for the database.

~

February 23, 2015      planning

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This is a light eating day after the weekend. I'm holding at 230 which is disappointing since I thought I was doing good except for the wine. I spent the day researching the NY trip some more. I ended up upgrading our return trip to business class instead of coach because we don't have a roomette. The business class seats are more comfortable for the 11 hour trip as well as having power at each seat. Included is a newspaper and beverage which I don't care about. The whole train, both coach and business class have WiFi. We watched some Times Square cams and decided we need warmer clothes so went to Target in the evening but no luck. I did buy a \$2 cotton cap. Next stop was Dicks Sporting Goods where I got a very nice pair of gloves for \$30. Dinner tonight happily was a salad with some tuna across the top.

~

February 24, 2015      packing

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We had snow overnight snow which was a surprise. We're gathering our stuff today for the weekend trip to NYC. I upgraded our return ticket to business class after reading some online reviews. I'm happy with my weight which was finally at 228 after days of 230. I forgot I needed money for the city so I went out on the snowy and icy roads and went to the credit union. They closed at noon because of the surprise snow but the teller lobby was open so I picked up \$200. Dinner tonight was a salad and spaghetti.

~

February 25, 2015      travel

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We checked the schedule for Amtrak and it was on time despite the snow. We left early to make sure we had time on icy Lake Pine Rd. Arrived at the station at 7:20 am and found the train was one hour late. Uggh! We chose to go to McDonalds near the mall which the phone said was 1.3 miles away. We sat there and had coffee and biscuits and killed some time. The roads were really icy and not many customers came there while we were seated. They made me check my bag which I didn't think was necessary since it adds to the headache at the other end retrieving it. The train was very comfortable and went pretty fast. There was no dining car. Instead we had the snack car where they served pretty awful microwave meals. I had a chicken caesar salad for lunch which was iceberg lettuce covered with microwaved chicken strips. For dinner I had beef chunks with mashed potatoes. It was OK but not the greatest. At Penn Station I had to wait about 20 minutes for my suitcase which was a pain. Got the case and went up to 8th Ave and got into a taxi driven by a guy from Ft Worth. The trip was \$15 with tip. I didn't know how to work the credit card machine in the cab but with help got it figured out. Once settled in the Marriott we walked the neighborhood then decided to go for pizza. Found John's pizza on 44th which was outstanding. It was a very thin crust wood oven fired pizza.

~

February 26, 2015      Mama Mia, Ellis Island

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Went across the street to McDonalds for breakfast. Inside is surprisingly calm. We took a walk to the GMA studios but they were packing up.

We saw a celebrity come out the side door and paparazzi held back by the police barricades. Some blonde got into her limo and drove away. Not sure who she was but there was a clamor over her presence. Next we bought subway passes then used them to go downtown for the Wall St walking tour. Visited the Federal Reserve, Ground zero. Stopped into the old Winter garden and ordered hot chocolate at a place called Olives which was unreal. They made the chocolate from scratch. Very very good. Back outside in the tunnel over the road which was a remnant of 9/11 and saw the Wall St bull. Missed the turn for Wall St so we went directly to the Ferry terminal for Ellis Island tickets. Was accosted by a hawker trying to sell cruise tickets. I knew I wanted Natl Park Service tickets. We bought \$28 worth of tickets and got on the ferry after going through security. Had to remove coat, belt, wallet, everything in order to go through security. At Ellis Island we saw the 30 minute movie which was fabulous. Toured the whole facility and then went outside to view the Glembocki name plaque somebody apparently has purchased for panel 165. There is an Emily Glembocki and a Joseph Glembocki Family. Got back and bought tickets at the TKTS booth in front of the hotel. We got great tickets to Mama Mia. Had dinner at Johns Pizza before hand then went to the theater at 7:30 PM. The show was fabulous!!! Really enjoyed the acting, dancing and music. It was so good. Afterwards we went to the View lounge on top of the Marriott and had 2 drinks each for \$84. Ouch.

~

February 27, 2015      cold

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It's darn cold today. After a McDonalds breakfast we walked to Rockefeller Center and bought tickets for the 10 am art tour. We were surprised the entire tour was outdoors. It was fascinating seeing all the art purchased by Abby Rockefeller most of it hated by her husband John D. After the tour we sat in the plaza and picked up a coffee and scone at starbucks and sat inside in the plaza and warmed up. I lost my hat but retraced my steps and found it laying on the floor. We next walked up 5th Ave, noticed a Huntington Beach store playing waves and surf pictures. Continued walking in the cold and found FAO Schwarz and the Apple Store. Enjoyed the toys. Got onto a Subway at 59th and went to Grand Central terminal. It's fabulous. Had lunch there at the Eata Pita. I ordered a shish kabob chicken pita and Libbie ordered soup. Surprisingly they were slicing the chicken right off a

rotisserie. Very nice. On the way back we stopped into the toys r us and enjoyed the exhibits, dinosaur and ferris wheel as well as the peeps exhibit. Amazing. Got onto a very very long line at the TKTS booth and bought tickets for On the Town, a musical on 42nd Street. We walked to a very nice Thai restaurant on 9th called Yum Yum Thai and had a nice Pad Thai dinner and Spring Rolls. Walked to the theater and thoroughly enjoyed On The Town, a musical featuring the music of Leonard Bernstein. It's old Broadway complete with music, singing and dancing. Incredibly good. After the very long show we dropped off our coats in the room and went to the rooftop lounge for drinks. Had another Down Home Apple Cider which is very good while the restaurant rotated showing off the city. Nice

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February 28, 2015      operas

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This morning we took a walk up Broadway and visited both the Hershey store and M&M World. It was incredible that you can have a store devoted to one candy product. It's freezing cold but my scarf and hat did me well and kept me warm. At 11:00 we walked to 42nd street and got onto a subway going to Lincoln Center, 66th St. Once there we walked over to the Europa Cafe which was a little deli restaurant where we split a turkey panini. This was a good lunch. The first opera was Donna del Lago at 1. When Joyce came out and started singing I got chills her voice was so pure and beautiful. Juan Diego appeared and got a good round of applause. We were underway. The second act is brighter with the full chorus in light colored outfits singing powerfully.

This is a beautiful opera of Rossini music. We next went back to the hotel and encountered the biggest crowds of our stay here. Wow, what a mass of humanity. Before the next opera at 8 we walked up into restaurant row and went to the Bourbon Street grill where we each had a shrimp po boy. This too was excellent. The sub roll was typical NY City quality bread, the best in the world. We did not have alcohol with the meal because we needed to stay awake for the opera until midnight. It was an easy subway ride back to Lincoln Center. Hoffman started promptly at 8 with James Levine conducting. We were in the second row of the Dress Circle, center of the theater. Great seats! We enjoyed this version of Hoffmann better than the HD one 2 weeks ago. What a great cast. We thought we were getting 2nd string but it was the better cast. Got out at 12:15. Decided to do a nightcap at the View lounge. We each had a drink while the restaurant rotated.

Went to bed at 1:30 AM.

~

March 01, 2015      Courtelyou House

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This was a lazy start to the day. We watched most of CBS this morning show except for a trip across the street to McDonalds. We decided to go out to the Old Stone House but first I had a bagel with Cream Cheese from a 24 hour deli I found around the corner from our hotel.

As

we got onto the 49th St station there were a few snowflakes in the air in Manhattan. 40 minutes later we came out of the underground in Brooklyn and had a big surprise. The ground was snow covered and it was coming down pretty hard. WE ducked under a bridge for a little bit with our cell phones and got our bearings so we could do some GPS navigation to the Stone House. The neighborhood looked pretty safe although I told Libbie I never in my life have gone into Brooklyn intentionally.

The GPS led us well along 4th Ave from Ninth St until we reached 3rd or 4th Street. There we could see the dark outline of what was obviously the house sort of visible in the ever falling snow. By now there was one to two inches on the ground. We took photos outside then went in to the visitors center. We met a very nice young girl inside at the desk who welcomed us. After explaining who we were and why we were there we explored the one room visitors center. There was a model of a battle in the middle of the room and photos around the outside. A 5 year old birthday party for 40 kids was in progress upstairs.

After a while it was back outside in the falling snow to capture more pictures before making our way back down 4th Ave to the subway.

We got on the R train for our trip back into Manhattan. The snow was falling in midtown now as well. WE were entertained for the longest time watching the small army of munchkins attack the falling snow with brooms, shovels, a tractor blade and walk behind salt spreaders.

IT was a spectacle watching them try to keep ahead of the storm but it was overwhelming them. Libbie likened it to watching the downpour last summer in Toronto where we ducked under an awning and watched people dealing with the deluge of a summer shower. We decided against going out again to another theater because if the performance was canceled we would not be able to get our money back until tomorrow which is too late since we would be gone.

I studied the listings for restaurant row looking for a steak place. Broadway Joes had horrible

ratings. I looked at Tapas bars but decided on Orso, a small family Italian restaurant. I made a reservation online. I wanted 6 but 7 was what was available. We went out into the snow and trudged up 46th. Many businesses and theaters had cleared their walks but on restaurant row the snow path was narrow since the previous snows were piled at the curb and occupied part of the sidewalk. Fortunately Orso was only a few restaurants down on the block. They had our table ready and took our coats when we entered the place. We had a very nice corner table with a good view of the room and out of the main path. Ben Stiller was opposite us and Martin Short was next to us. There were only about a dozen tables here.

We ordered an Italian dry red blend suggested by the waiter. It was merlot, cabernet and syrah with a full body. The menu had headings like Primi, Secondi, Antipasti and Deserto.

He explained you order a main course and a second course. We had a half plate of spaghetti and eggplants served family style as our pre entree. Then had the salmon with greens, pomegranate and risotto.

It was out of this world delicious. Our salmon at home has a new standard to live up to. I wouldn't mind learning this dish at home.

For dessert Libbie had a chocolate torte with chocolate and raspberry sauce. I had the Tiramisu. Presentation was over the top with flakes of chocolate on it, coffee accompanied dessert. They brewed fresh decaf for Libbie. Our bill for the evening was \$190. I had warmed up quite a bit and actually felt pretty good stepping out into the cold once we bailed out our coats from the coat check. We packed our suitcases for morning takeoff. While Libbie went to bed I spent a few hours resetting her Nexus 7 to factory settings. She had taken an update which made the device very unstable. You could hardly do anything before it immediately crashed or froze up. Google has some very good account backups which utilized the account info from her cell phone to do an NFC transfer, then the data from the apps was restored. All restored except the books. I played around and got it to connect to Calibre where I downloaded her current book, To Kill a Mockingbird. Bedtime at midnight with a wake up at 5 AM. It'll be a short night.

~

March 02, 2015      home

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I was up at 5 and quickly jumped into the shower. Packed up our things and walked to the deli off times square at 5:30 in the morning. The clerk wanted to know what we were doing there so early. Told him we

had a train to catch at 7 from Penn Station. They had egg, bacon and English muffin biscuits prepared. They weren't very warm but acceptable.

We also had them make some sandwiches for the train. We ordered a ham and cheese and a turkey and cheese on wheat bread. They sure put a lot of meat into the sandwiches. This is NY Deli style. At the hotel the doorman got us a cab at 6 AM. We didn't see any but he had his whistle and Walkie talkie and a cab magically appeared. The roads were surprisingly clear on the way to the station. He let us out at the corner on 8th ave where we got to step into the slush puddles to get to the station. There is a ticketed entry waiting area with airline style seating that is nice since they keep the street people out. The train left on time. Our business class tickets were well worth it, we have comfortable seats, drink service and AC Power.

We arrived

about 15 minutes late in Cary which was acceptable. Temps around 40 felt pretty good to us. There also was no snow on the ground.

We went out tonight to la Cocina for dinner. The mail was waiting for us in the mailbox since we had the held mail delivered.

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March 03, 2015      Getting Back

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It was a slow start to get back. I did a Kroger grocery run for the normal Tuesday groceries. I also went to Lowes to look at the cultivators which are smaller roto tillers. The one I looked at was made by



Troy Built and included a port to electrically start the thing with a drill. Price around \$200. I also picked up an armful of treated 2x4s for the shed. Had to deposit a check in the Credit Union. For some strange reason I got a check refund from Cary Medical from 2 years ago. Wonder what was up with that. Dinner was spaghetti with sauce and cheese.

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March 04, 2015      dance

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It's a warm one today. Spent some time cleaning up the Learning section of the AVSa website then did some scanning of programs from our trip.

At 3 we went to dance and had a great lesson with Robert doing waltz amalgamations. This is another eating light day which meant a dinner of salad with tuna over the top.

We went back for Tango with

Andy and then Bolero with Robert. It was my first exposure to Bolero.

I had a lot of fun.

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March 05, 2015      dvd

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I got the Foxtrot DVD from Steve last night and proceeded to use the Handbrake program to rip it. I also did some future research for NY hotels.

I loved the Marriott but also looked for alternatives. There is a Hilton Garden Inn around the corner on 8th and a Hilton on 42nd St near 7th which was across the street from the Lyric theater which is where we saw "On the Town". My weight this morning was a disappointing 229 but I'm back in the groove and working on it.

We

practiced a little Bolero this morning but had trouble remembering some of the steps.

Spent the afternoon scanning playbills and filling out the Traviata life bits and blogs. Libbie is under the weather today. This is not good. Dinner tonight was 15 bean ham soup and corn bread. The soup was made with the Christmas ham. I hope the meal doesn't make my weight go up. I only had cereal and soup today plus apples and carrots. Listened to and recorded Hoffmann tonight. This is the cast we heard this past weekend in the house. They are good.

~

March 06, 2015      weight and TWC

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I was happy this morning because the scale finally budged. I was at 227 finally. I never should have gained all this weight. Looked up the Time Warner history today. I have contacted them 3 times about getting the \$18 removed from my bill. It's still there.

Went down to the

Cary office TWC. They assured me the \$18 charge will be removed by a supervisor. I told him that was the story last time and it's still there. My tiller magneto didn't come today. It's coming from IN and the midwest is undergoing a winter storm yesterday and today which may impact delivery. It's too cold outside anyway to deal with it but I want to see if at least the mounting holes match up. Libbie is sleeping this afternoon. She has a bad cough deep inside. I filled a tray with dirt today and watered it from the bottom hoping to plant my tomato and pepper seeds. Spring will be here one of these days. Spent some time this afternoon editing the Tales of Hoffmann I recorded live last night from the Met. I'm finally getting the hang of using Audacity. It's a pretty nice program if only I understood the UI better. I also did some work on the AVSA website adding the feedback requested statement on the education pages and adding a News item.

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March 07, 2015      Kroger

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The scale is cooperating. If i held my breath i can get it to just barely read 226 which is another pound down but I suspect it's not real.

Doctor appt is at the end of the month and I want to see 215. That's only 11 pounds but it will be difficult. Maybe when Libbie goes to her parents next week I can really throttle back to just a few hundred calories per day. I estimate I'm doing around 1250 to 1500 now.

Went to Kroger and ran into Anita and daughter Rebecca. Daughters Rebecca and Lisa are going to cook dinner for Anita's birthday which is today. I picked up my Friday Freebie which was a Hormel wrap.

Libbie

and I went to Home Depot. She bought a new bird bell and worms. I

got some Dahlias and pepper seeds. This completes my seeds for starter trays. The Rototiller Magneto came this afternoon in the mail when we returned from Lowes. I installed it and the tiller started right up. It's running a little rough but smooths out when I loosen the air filter. I went to Town and Country Hardware in Parkway Point and bought an air filter which matched my old one. I brought the old one into the store in a baggy. Came home and installed it but did not try running the tiller. It's supposed to be 65 tomorrow so I'll prepare the ground for the new shed extension. Dinner was the leftover bean soup with corn bread. I had a salad with my soup. I hope I lose some more weight. this afternoon I listened to the Sat Met broadcast of Carmen live. Recorded it and then in the evening I used Audacity to split the file into acts and intermissions.

~

March 08, 2015      shed

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I took the roto tiller out and tried to do some leveling behind the shed. The tiller still has a problem in that it stalls out when the governor demands power. It just coughs and dies. Not sure what's wrong. It may be time to replace the motor. A new one is \$250 at Northern. I just need to know the diameter of the shaft. Some disassembly required. I managed to cut one timber and lay it in the ditch I made but did not level or secure it. I will have 3 timbers total under the shed extension supporting the 2x4 floor joists. Libbie is pretty sick. I ran out to Kroger and picked up 4 cans of Chicken noodle soup which was a clear broth with noodles in it so she can have warm soup for her cold. I spent some time this afternoon learning about Drupal entities. Dinner was bits and pieces. I had a bowl of chicken noodle soup and a salad. Later I had a glassful of chocolate chip cereal which was not a good idea. Need to deep six the sweet cereal which I thought was a good idea at the time since it would be a low calorie snack. It doesn't work for binge eaters which I finally decided was my problem.

~

March 09, 2015      tiller

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The tiller is working much better today. I guess the carburetor seals

needed to be lubricated by running a little. i tilled the area some more and installed one more timber. libbie is pretty sick. i called Joy and told her no shipping this week. Dinner was a salad with tuna fish.

~

March 10, 2015      meds

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I got the middle timber set today on the shed project. I also attempted to use the level and get them leveled. Probably need to buy some gravel to level these timbers. It's a beautiful day. Libbie is really sick. i decided to inquire with Cary medical about walk ins and took her there to see a nurse practitioner. the diagnosis was a sinus infection. He prescribed an anti-biotic and ann \$89 bottle of Codeine.

I had several calls about the FC update status. I need to really get to work on this. Dinner was baked BBQ chicken and potato salad wit a bag of chips. This is not good anymore. i need to slow down on the eating. I listened to and recorded Donna del lago from the Met this evening. Margaret is still out. Wonder what's wrong with her? I also did some portfolio adjustments today. Added a few more FGP and KMI. Breitburn has really gone south with the oil prices being depressed.

~

March 11, 2015      construction

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I went out and took a few wheelbarrows of dirt out of the shed area. Before this I took some empty pails to the gravel place and bought 284 pounds of rock for under \$6. It's 20 cents per pound. Finished cleaning up the dirt under the floor area and got the timbers situated.

I bought water softener crystals before it rained so I could line the bottom of each side of the timbers with salt as termite proofing.

Poured the gravel over the salt. Now I'm ready for the wood floor joists to go over this, probably tomorrow. while i was at Lowes i found a Scott lawn patch kit which has mulch, seed and fertilizer mixed up to repair grass areas. I put this over the new dirt I put down between the flagstones on the path in back. In a few weeks I'm hoping this will be grass growing between the flagstones. Dinner was BBQ chicken and southern potato salad. Did some more portfolio adjusting today.

I need to withdraw money to pay the credit card bill. This bill is over \$9,000 and has the European trip, some Stoneybrook charges, and the New York trip. Even more amazing the credit card balance is over \$10,000. Ouch!

Listening to Merry Widow tonight from the Met.

I'm really enjoying this, it's nice light music with good tunes.

~

March 12, 2015      construction

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Went outside this morning and raked around the timbers and covered the rakings with pine straw to prevent me from getting too muddy. Used the 2x4's and made a joist frame to start the floor decking. I got about 4 feet of decking down when I ran out of outdoor spiral decking nails.

The great news was I found a property side iron. By my estimate of the distance from the shed to the iron I have a comfortable margin from the property line. Did a run out to Lowes for more nails and also an additional 2x6 which I estimate I am short by. Dinner was BBQ chicken leftovers and potato salad. After dinner my head cold hit with full force. I did some research online and decided I needed an antihistamine. Found the names of 2 antihistamine chemicals and went to Walgreens at 8 PM in search of either. The nice young pharmacist told me that one was non drowsy and the other will knock me out.

I chose the non drowsy and it did the trick. The drip totally stopped but I think the dose is too strong since I could feel it tightening up my sinuses. Next does will be half a tablet using my tablet slicer.

~

March 13, 2015      cold, runny nose

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My cold has abated somewhat but I feel lethargic. Went outside for a little bit and hammered down three more deck planks for the shed extension.

Libbie is doing much better today. Went to Kroger and picked up the freebie which was a Snickers egg. It was an Easter egg made of Snickers candy. I didn't do too much today except did a lot of reading online. I'm sort of out of it. In the evening the sniffles came back real bad so after dinner I had a half a tablet. This seems to work better than the whole tablet. Dinner was noodles, peas and creamed

tuna. It was yummy and just what the doctor ordered!

~

March 14, 2015      operas and colds

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Started to finally look at creating an update package for Android. I'm really out of it. Took another antihistamine to stop the drippy nose. Not sure how I'm going to do today in the theater. We left at 12:15 in the rain for a 12:55 performance. What a yucky day. Donna del Lago was way over the top. It was incredibly beautiful and a showcase for Joyce. I thoroughly enjoyed the performance. The cold, sneezing and coughing held off enough to make it through the performance and to enjoy it fully. The theater was surprisingly full. I thought because it was a crummy day and this was a little known opera that it would be sparsely attended. This was not to be. After the opera Libbie needed to go to Joann fabric to get material for the binding around her quilt. I was not in favor of this but sat in the parking lot numbly while she ran in for the fabric. For dinner tonight we had beef pot roast soup and a peanut butter sandwich. Not great but passable and hopefully nutritious. I tried to keep at the updates but had a hard time concentrating with the cold and the antihistamine. Went to bed shortly after 8. It took a lot of will power to even last that long.

~

March 15, 2015      miserable

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Today was a lost day. I can't concentrate. This cold has done me in, I have been taking a half an antihistamine tab as needed to get through the day. The rain really did a number on the tar paper covering the decking for the shed extension. I'll have to rip it up and redo it. Libbie made her wonderful pizza for dinner. She said she jazzed it up a little with balsamic and red pepper. It was very good.

~

March 16, 2015      updates

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It's a beautiful day out but I relentlessly pursued the updates for First Class. After struggling with the SQL and the fact that it added extra spaces to the SQL when I auto update the credits file, I managed to get everything patched up so it doesn't crash anymore. I hope I caught everything I was supposed to. I put the release onto Google this evening. At the same time I distributed the MAAVS Memo. Dinner tonight was a salad with tuna fish. The weight loss thing has to go ballistic this week since in 2 weeks I go for the weigh in.

~

March 17, 2015      resume framing

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Not doing so well today. Lots of phlegm in my throat causing me to breathe with a wheeze. Went outside and finished the platform for the shed extension. Now I have to build the walls and roof trusses. The trusses will be the hardest part to replicate all the angles. I tired out pretty quickly but still pumped up the tires on the cart and picked up the pine straw that Libbie had raked a few days before. Last night I finally got the update out for First Class for Android.

This

took a while and required a program update. Dinner tonight was spaghetti with cheese sprinkles. I'm not happy with the amount of weight loss but at least it's going down. I did some research today on transferring a file to Android. I'm going to need this in order to import a user database.

~

March 18, 2015      feeling better

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Weight this morning was fair. Down to 225 which is a vast improvement over the 238+ I was at when we returned from Florida at the end of January. This was a lackadaisical day. The fox dug huge holes under the shed so I spent the day closing the gaps. Ran over to the greenhouse and retrieved a roll of screening from the fan housings that was laying in the old greenhouse foundation. Installed this all around which did involve some digging. Libbie did a lot raking so I assisted with some of the trailer work. Wow did I get tired fast. Dinner tonight was Salmon and broccoli. The Salmon was great, I'm just OK with the Broccoli. I tried a little hot sauce on it to make it more flavorful

but it was way too hot.

~

March 19, 2015     shed

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It's supposed to rain today. The fox didn't get through my mesh last night but did dig some big holes and a lot of smaller ones. I nailed together the wood I cut yesterday and built the first wall for the place. Now it needs the front wall and I can support trusses.

It rained

in the afternoon putting a damper on further construction. I didn't feel like working on the shed anyway as I continue to recover from the cold.

Dinner tonight was a salad with tuna over the top.

~

March 20, 2015     wet again

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It's a yucky wet morning. Went out to see if the fox returned in the rain overnight and the answer is no. It's pretty wet and cold today.

In the afternoon we went to the CU to deposit a check, Lowes for nails and wood and then to Target for ribs. We found there is no meat or seafood dept in Target. they only have pre packaged foods. Picked up 2 bottles of Ravenswood and also the package of ribs which was on sale for 8.99. dinner was ribs, broccoli and a bottle of Ravenswood Zinfandel.

It's been awhile since we've been well enough to have a nice meal and is really the first since we've been home from NY. I started looking at the Universal IR remote using a YUN. This seems promising to use the Arduino side of YUN for IR transmission and the Linux side to run a Flask web server. I can get this going easily I think.

I ordered some IR receiver modules from Davis, CA on eBay today to support learning remote codes. I think this is going to be useful.

I read the Jan/Feb issue of florida Gardening today and was disappointed to see the owners in Port Malabar sold the magazine. Not sure if I will renew when it expires.

~

March 21, 2015     nice day



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It's a beautiful warm sunny day for a change. I was going to work on the shed some more but instead worked on the garden which really needed work. I trimmed the roses and the lantana and butterfly bushes. The Gardenia also took a pretty good winter hit so I basically chopped it in half. Ed Lyons came over during the afternoon for plants from Libbie. The work today really wore me out and I only trimmed bushes. Not sure if I'm getting old or the effects of the recent cold are still lingering in my body. We had a nice meal tonight consisting of shrimp, basmati rice and broccoli. We had Ravenswood Cabernet with the meal.

~

March 22, 2015      back to pizza

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After the morning shows today I returned to the shed project and assembled the front wall for the shed. It still needs to be raised but that's coming. We did a trip to Walmart and picked up kitchen garbage bags and also got a couple of packs of snapdragons for the flower boxes. Libbie made her pizza today from scratch. We're both doing a lot better since our colds last week. Hurray. Dinner was the pizza on freshly made crust. Yummy

~

March 23, 2015      wall

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I cut out the old siding on the shed and put a nailer up to support the front wall of the extension. Next I raised the wall and fastened it in place. I'm still eating light since I need to lose 10 pounds by my doctor appointment next week in order to be at least the same weight as last year. I'm not sure I'm going to make it. This is tough, I wish I had not gained back so much weight in the first place. Dinner was a salad covered with tuna fish but Libbie also heated up the leftover ribs from Saturday so we had 2 ribs each. I hope this doesn't impact anything with my weight loss plans.

~

March 24, 2015      trusses

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Picked up some plywood at Home Depot today and cut the braces for the trusses out of this plywood. This involved making a template out of cardboard first then tracing the cardboard onto the plywood. I got covered with sawdust doing this. I also fastened the aluminum flashing to the base of the shed decking and pushed the dirt against this for a ramp then covered it all with Pine Straw to keep the mud down. We practiced our waltz today for the first time in a long time. It went pretty good. Learning the chase' from a promenade. Dinner was spaghetti with sauce and cheese.

~

March 25, 2015      anniversary

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Fast early this morning then out to Waverly place to get blood drawn at 7:30. There's a surprising number of people going everywhere in the morning. Stopped into whole foods and picked up a dozen roses for our anniversary today. Went outside and nailed most of the plates onto the trusses but ran out of 6d nails before finishing. I have 3 more plates to nail. Went to HD to get nails just before dance. It was nice returning to the Studio today. It has been since March 4 that we were there. Robert was pretty helpful with our waltz amalgamation. I didn't have the lock step or the transition into the flip flops but Robert straightened me out. I feel I learned a lot in this lesson.

My knee started bothering me again and I was tired by the end of the lesson. I'm not sure what's going on. I weighed myself this morning and was delighted at 223. It's getting closer to the 216-218 from last year although I want to go lower. Dinner was a salad with tuna over the top. Ingredients included bacon bits, olives and tomatoes. Very good but I'm hungry. I'm on a weight loss quest and know it's not going to be easy.

~

March 26, 2015      programs

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I added the side wall to the shed today which ties the front and back together ready for trusses. I also nailed the remaining plates onto

the trusses with the nails I purchased last night. Dinner was pork chops, leftover rice and lima beans. I need to get more frozen Lima beans since this was the last of them. I helped John Carter get his update to the First Class program. He need to update the program before he could get the database update.

~

March 27, 2015      rain

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It's cold and rainy today. I chose to work indoors on B4A trying to figure out dropbox and auto syncing with an Android program. It's been a frustrating day where I thought I was doing everything right but dropbox is pretty slow to be acknowledged by the app. After what seemed like a long time the directory was finally recognized but additional files added to the directory still have not shown up. Dinner was a salad with pork chop on the top. We went to dance at 8 and had a nice time. It was good to see everyone again. After dance we went out to Cary to a Mexican restaurant called Totopos which is where Chilis used to be on Kildaire Farm Rd. It was real good. I had a Negra Modelo draft beer and a side of Queso Fundido which was a cheese dish with poblano and chili pepper, salsa and bacon. it came with tortillas. Wow, was this good.

~

March 28, 2015      trusses

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It's cold today, it feels like January. I went out and installed one truss then found out they were built wrong. They're not tall enough.

I need to build some more. I cut the siding away from the top of the shed to reveal the truss. I'm going to use this as a template to assemble more trusses. In the late afternoon I ran out to Home Depot and bought 8 new studs for the job. During the earlier afternoon I listened to a very nice Lucia on Sirius live from the Met. I also recorded it. While this was going on I did a lot of reading about file transfers. I decided that the way to do the user database is to develop a windows program which will act as an FTP client. I'm going to use C# to do the Windows UI. It has a nice open source IDE and also a few FTP libraries and example client code. I want to make it like the B4A bridge which changes color when you connect. Dinner was a chicken

breast with Libbie's BBQ sauce, roast beets and roast potatoes with a glass of shiraz.

~

March 29, 2015      bad truss

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Spent most of the day reading ASSTR. I haven't visited that site in a while. In the afternoon I decided to go out and try the trusses. They are too short. I will need to cut new ones. Went out to Home Depot and picked up 8 more 2x4s. This will remake the trusses and also leave some wood for the side wall to the peak. Dinner was Libbie's pizza in which she put the leftover tomato slices from our lunch BLTs. Really good and I was very hungry.

~

March 30, 2015      truss plates

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Libbie filled a big order this morning for leaves with Joy. I spent the time on the FTP server portion of the Android program. It works standalone but I need to add it to FC4A. I also created the robots.txt

file for AVSA since Barb pointed out that the protected nodes were consecutive. I added this sequence to the private section of robots.txt.

It's very cold, only in the 40s. Spent some time outside cutting the new plywood plates for the new trusses. Cleaned it all up and came back inside since it was cold. Listened to Don Carlo live tonight.

It was the season premiere and started out rough but later it was pretty good. Dinner tonight was spaghetti with tomato sauce and cheese.

~

March 31, 2015      trusses

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After the grocery run dragged the saw outside and started cutting the trusses. I cut the plates yesterday so after cutting each 2x4 truss I assembled it using the existing standing truss as a template. Finished building all the trusses today which wore me out. We're expecting a few days of warm sunny weather so this will go well. Hopefully install the trusses tomorrow and the plywood and tar paper the next day.

Dinner was a salad - yeah!

~

April 01, 2015     plywood

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Libbie got fooled this morning by Travis's April fool joke announcing that he was closing the greenhouse. I managed to put up all the trusses and also use the electric portable drill to drill the toe nail holes to fasten them. This way the wood doesn't split. I also put the 4 foot wide sheet of plywood on the roof. This will serve to hold the trusses parallel. I stopped after a few hours since I didn't want to get too tired for dance today. We had a good waltz lesson with Robert.

Key points to take away were rotating frame when doing zigzag twinkles, take smaller steps when going back doing the flip flops. This gives Libbie an easier time getting around. Dinner was salad topped with tuna which is totally agreeable since I'm trying to get to 220 and only have made it to 222. We went back to group class with Robert in the evening and learned traffic avoidance as well as styling.

~

April 02, 2015     esquires

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Weight down to 221 this morning. Did some web work and got the date module enabled so that the events on the event page correctly age out.

This turned out to be an easy fix. Now I need to load the magazine index. Outdoors I finished putting the plywood on the shed roof and covered it all with tar paper so that it's now weatherized. Next step is to get some siding. Got all dressed up in a tux with my red bow tie and left for Esquires at 5:50. Anne and Paul were our guests.

Attendance was light due to a lot of church stuff happening on Holy Thursday.

Easter is this weekend. Our dancing was much better. It was fun seeing Anne and Paul dance. They are really good. Dinner at esquires was smoked brisket, rock fish, squash casserole, potatoes and broccoli.

The food is quite good. I had a Yuengling with dinner and cheesecake with raspberries for dessert. This was all not good since I have a "weigh in"; tomorrow morning at the doctor.

~

April 03, 2015      doctor visit  
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Worked on the B4A program in the morning before my doctor visit. My knee really hurts which is good since I will see the doctor at 11. The visit went well, the weight was a little high at 223 but acceptable. I wished it was lower. Next year I want it to be exactly 200. The knee was diagnosed as bone rubbing against bone. It even sounds bad when the leg is moved compared to the left knee which flexes quietly. I have some flexing exercises to do several times a day to strengthen the inner thigh muscles. I took it easy the rest of the day, Libbie and I went to the Farmers market where we bought a Tulip Magnolia, variety 'Jane'. We also picked up some tomatoes and I got a few mint varieties, Orange mint and Chocolate mint.

Dinner was slices of our

Easter ham with the leftover corn and bean casserole from Libbie's quilt luncheon yesterday. Went to dance at 8 PM and did quite a bit of dancing. We did well on waltz and foxtrot. I danced with Jennifer doing a meringue' and got the name of the song from Mitzi as well as 2 others. At home I added those to the Dance mix directory. After dancing we went out to the McGregor Tavern in McGregor Village. I had a draft Yuengling which was the Friday night special beer. We shared a Quesadilla with a cajun chicken filling in addition to the cheeses and pepper. I added sour cream and salsa. These were yummy. We got home at 11:30PM. Who are these party people?

~

April 04, 2015      siding  
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More work on B4A. I successfully installed the MS Visual Studio compiler on the small multimedia machine. It really works well and compiles the program. I then managed to get the TCP File Transfer program running on Android using the C# app from Visual Studio. I will integrate this into the B4A program. During the Opera intermission I built a rack for the trailer to hold sheets of siding over the top of the trailer. This really worked better than expected. Libbie and I went to Home Depot and picked up 8 sheets of heavy cement siding. I'm really happy with how well the trailer handles the load which is now evenly distributed with one foot hanging out the front and one foot out the back. I left the siding on the trailer in our yard, Libbie helped me push the trailer from the car in the garage out to the side pine

straw near the shed. Dinner was ham, sweet potato, Lima beans and Apple Sauce with Shiraz wine.

~

April 05, 2015      beautiful day

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After the morning shows I went outside to work on the shed. Prior to that I prepared a chocolate rabbit, cadbury eggs and peeps in an easter basket. Joy was coming over today after CBS This Morning so I also made up an Easter basket for her. On the shed I managed to put up 3 of the sheets of hardi panel siding. This went pretty well but those darn things are pretty heavy and a struggle. Fortunately I only have one more full size sheet to erect then the rest along the sides are half sheets. I can cut those in place on the trailer then carry the half sheet over to the shed. I had too many Cadbury eggs and peeps today, will get back onto the diet again tomorrow. Libbie made her pizza with fresh dough today and jazzed it up with onions, a bell pepper and some red pepper. This was yum and made the pizza substantial.

~

April 06, 2015      siding

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This was a productive day. Libbie and Joy assembled the big order for Albuquerque and Birmingham. At 4 in the afternoon we took it to the Post Office in 2 cars and also used the hand truck to carry the boxes of plants into the Post Office. I worked outside on the shed all day. I cut some more siding and finished the siding on the new section. Had to run out to Lowes to pick up more siding nails. It's a bright sunny day today. I was really dragging myself by the end of the day. Dinner was simple ham sandwiches with some leftover Lima Beans from Saturday night. I've been working on integrating the user photos into a map to insert into the SQL database. Not there yet but I'm getting closer.

~

April 07, 2015      groceries

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This morning is Tuesday, grocery day. I picked up the supplies needed to make the Pepperoni loaf this Friday as well as the normal groceries.

Didn't need much since Libbie is leaving this Saturday for a week at the beach. Worked on putting up more siding on the shed. I really knocked myself out once again. Dinner tonight was spaghetti with tomato sauce and cheese.

~

April 08, 2015      Taxes

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I talked to Vicki this morning for her birthday to find out what she's up to. They're still looking at moving. I doubt if it will happen.

I worked on taxes this morning. We have a lot of MLP forms that needed inputting into TurboTax. In the afternoon we did West Coast swing with Robert. It was a new pattern for us. We came back in the evening after a salad topped with ham slices. On the return Robert was teaching a bronze class in West Coast swing. We did pretty good trying to keep up. I think I have it down pat. Need to add more patterns to this dance. Will look at You Tube for some of this.

~

April 09, 2015      Lightning

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The tax work continues. I have pretty much completed the taxes but will let them jell for a little bit before filing. I had to fool around with it quite a bit to get it to spit out the NC state tax. It kept wanting to sell me a \$40 tax package. One state return is supposed to be included with this version. We had a dinner of sweet and sour ham which was ham with pineapple chunks over rice. Wow, this was good.

After dinner we had a pretty severe electrical storm with many many loud booms. We lost internet service which turned out to be a blown up cable modem which is hard to believe. I did a lot of research today on a new desktop computer. I want high performance. I got a taste of it with the new Lenovo Xeon server. I want the same for the desktop.

~

April 10, 2015      Italian Party



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I had to run over to Best Buy this morning to buy a new cable modem due to the lightning damage. It also took out our Vonage adapter. This may be a good time to get away from Vonage.

It's a little wet out

but I took all the old siding off the back side of the shed, prepared the surface for nailing and put up all the new siding. Libbie leaves tomorrow for a week so we both went to Krogers and filled up using our gas points which were 80 cents a gallon discount. We both took 15 gallons. I prepared the bread dough at 4 and then put on the pepperoni, cheese and herbs and put it in the oven for baking. It took 40 minutes at 350 degrees and it was delicious. I picked up a bottle of Ruffino Chianti in Kroger for our Italian themed party tonight. We danced all night and our dish was a success. It was all eaten. The dance was over at 10 then we all went home. What a fun evening. There was a Russian girl there named Paulina. She was tall, thin and stunning. Libbie said she was eye candy. Loved to watch her dance, her body flows nicely.

When we got back I found a Newegg flash sale which had the Gskill faster memory on sale for \$95 for 16 gigabytes. Previously best price was \$119. I also ordered the Gigabyte motherboard now I need a CPU. Found a few candidates on eBay but not NewEgg.

~

April 11, 2015      slow day  
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Libbie took off today at 10. I got a NewEgg flyer with the I7 4 ghz CPU on sale for \$20 off. I ordered it. this is the last piece of the puzzle for my new desktop computer. Using Manon for taxes convinced me this thing needed help. I picked up bark for the two dogwoods in front and found jobes tree spikes. I fertilized the two dogwoods then the one new dogwood in back as well as the new tulip magnolia. Caulked all the new siding on the shed in prep for painting. Dinner was a hamburger with potato salad and chips. The Saturday opera this afternoon was Don Carlos which was very nice. Dinner tonight was a hamburger on an onion roll with potato salad.

~

April 12, 2015      paint

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After the morning programs I painted the new siding on the shed on 3 of the sides. I also painted the panel that will be used for the door.

For dinner I made a pizza using a pre made dough from Kroger but all the ingredients were mine. I found a package of frozen peppers and onions that I put on top. I used too many bell peppers but the onions were perfect. I think the ratio should be 2 to 1., onions to pepper.

~

April 13, 2015      trim

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Took the saw out today and cut some of the trim pieces. I also made a Lowes run to look at possibilities for garden gates. I need to make access to the Iris garden easier for us. Dinner was hamburger on the onion roll accompanied by Bush's grilling beans. I studied Coquille recipes for the French party. I want to make Coquille St Tom which is my variation of the classic recipe but using shrimp and cupcake foils. Took a trip to Durham today up by Southpoint. 751 was real pretty and has much development along the way.

~

April 14, 2015      sadness

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Took a trip to Tiger direct today and sadly the store is liquidating. there is hardly anything there, all the good stuff has been sold. Wow, what a shock. I'm going to miss them. The entire chain is shutting down and they're going to be online only. Hate to tell them but they are not competitive with Amazon and Newegg. Newegg sent all my tracking numbers for the new manon 3 system. dinner tonight was rib pieces in BBQ sauce from Trader joes. Very good and convenient. I cooked it in the microwave right in the package. Replaced the tractor battery today with a new one from Walmart. The old one wouldn't hold a charge anymore. After charging it yesterday and running it to mow the lawn it wouldn't crank today. I noticed Walmart had them on sale for

19.97 so i went for it. I also bought a new Mr Coffee from Walmart as well to replace the one that's leaking all over the counter. I'm trying to listen to Cav and Pag live from the met tonight but the signal keeps dropping due to heavy rain outside.

~

April 15, 2015      pizza

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Another rainy day. Stayed in and did some work on the AVSA website trying to get the find content restored. I also uploaded the March index but it still doesn't fill in the taxonomy tags. I worked on converting each entry to a non feed idx so I could edit the taxonomy. This required one node at a time to be worked on . For dinner I made another pizza which was excellent. this time I cut back on the number of peppers and also added onion salts to the ingredients. It was very tasty. The only thing missing was Libbie's crust which is much better than the store bought kind.

~

April 16, 2015      bojangles

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I got tired of all the rain so I moved the trim boards into the garage after blowing out the garage. Libbie's car is at the beach so that side is empty. I'll let the boards dry out overnight and then paint them under cover. I felt like having Bojangles tonight so I picked up a 3 piece dinner with a biscuit and dirty rice. I only ate 2 of the pieces.

~

April 17, 2015      ballroom

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Went out at 9 and got a haircut at Great clips. I was the second one in the store so the second lady took me right away. There are two cutters in the store. After the haircut I went into Kroger and picked up faux crab for the Coquille for tonight. Went out to the garage after coming home and painted the trim boards. Came in and there was a text from Libbie that she was on her way home from the beach a day early.

She came home and helped me make the Coquille. It went very well. She did the sauteing, I arranged the tin cups on the cookie sheet. The smell was incredible. I made a sign renaming the Coquille to Coquille Saint Tom with a shellfish warning. Just before we went to dance we baked them in the oven at 400 until the bread crumbs browned. They were delicious and a hit at the ballroom. I really liked them, we had lots of fun dancing tonight. I would like to do more. It was over at 10 PM after which we went home tired and with a half dozen leftover coquilles. Anita made a delicious Creme Brulee but she brought 2 and only one was eaten. She wanted to give the other one to us but we told her we didn't need it. This afternoon the CPU came. I mounted the motherboard in the old Traviata case and installed the CPU. Now I need to run the cables to the Motherboard from the front panel.

~

April 18, 2015      Oyster party

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Did a second coat of paint on the trim boards then came in and made the Honey chipotle Baked Beans for the party tonight. We left a little before 4 and set the beans out when we got there. The party was underway, having started at 3. It was pretty enjoyable and the food was excellent. I love Oysters. They were large and quite good. Lib and i brought 4 beers which we drank with the Oysters, Late in the afternoon a downpour started. We all went into the house where I sat at the kitchen table and had some nice coffee with ground beans and a fruit tort for dessert. It was an enjoyable time even with the rain. We left after dark and of course as luck would have it, there was no rain at home. A little disappointment with the new computer. It just sits there and beeps. The CPU does respond to reset. Possibly it's a voltage issue. I have a Thermaltake power supply in the shop I can try. Otherwise I will have to order a new motherboard.

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April 19, 2015      4.4ghz CPU

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Last night before the party I moved all the painted boards out of the garage onto the trailer outside. This was so Lib could get her car into the garage. Today after the CBS Sunday morning News I went outside

and started getting the grow boxes prepared. Two new cups of dolomite lime into the ones that house tomatoes and one cup into each of the others. This was raked into the top 4 inches of soil. I also topped each of the boxes up with fresh soil from the compost pile. Two cups of general purpose compost were laid down in a strip in each of the boxes on top, under the mulch cover. The cover was put back on and all the seedlings were transplanted. I played with the new computer some more but no luck. I ordered a new motherboard from Newegg from their sale sheet. It's another z97 MB but with less USB ports. The cost after a \$20 rebate will be \$69 but I paid \$20 for 2 day shipping.

I also ordered a transient protector using ordinary shipping. This one has ports to protect RJ45 jacks and coaxial cables in addition to protected AC outlets. I'll use it to protect the cable modem.

We've lost too many over the years. Dinner was Libbie's excellent pizza.

I tried an experiment. I took the Gigabyte Motherboard to the microscope and examined the pins of the LGA1150 socket. A few pins were bent in a few places. I gingerly nudged them back into position and carefully put the CPU back into the socket. The whole system seemed to boot BIOS!!!! Later in the day I hooked up all the cables and bolted it down inside the old Traviata case. I put a Win 7 USB drive into the USB slot and it installed windows. I also put a few key programs on the machine such as 7 zip, VLC player, Ultraedit, Chrome, and others. I need to make a list of important software. The install took under 1 minute. The old Manon took almost 10 minutes to boot.

This is going to be remarkable. Software tells me the CPU is running at 4.4 Ghz. Now I need to mate a hard drive to this thing. I have a few 1T green drives laying around. I need to see what's on them.

~

April 20, 2015      Siding

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Went outside at 9 and started to install the painted siding. It's supposed to rain today so I need to get some of this up on the shed. Worked all day until 4 on this task. I have quite a bit of siding trim installed now. Tomorrow I will build the door except we have to do a violet talk at a senior center. I also need more trim boards and more trim paint. I spent a little more time on my new desktop computer.

Love this machine. Windows boot time is 8 seconds. I dug up the activation program which is called Windows Loader 2.2 and ran it. This patched Windows to show activation and genuine. We were supposed to get a dose of sever weather this evening but it swung by to the North

and missed us. However, we got over an inch of rain yesterday so we don't need anymore. The seedlings which were transplanted yesterday are healthy. We had a bad infestation of white fly on the adjacent Rosemary so I sprayed the Rosemary and also the transplants. I may have to do another treatment since the infestation was so bad. In the evening we decided to go out to La Cocina. I had a Yuengling draft and a Quesadila La Cocina.

~

April 21, 2015      paint

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Went to Lowes to get more paint and had a little trouble matching colors.

A very pretty blonde worked with me for an hour trying to adjust the color. I liked the way her pants were painted on to her fine body.

An hour later I was done and they only charged me \$2.50 for the can. Wow. All this went on while Libbie was at the skin doctor getting a treatment. Dinner tonight was spaghetti with tomato sauce and cheese.

I worked on the AVSa website quite a bit and got a few things working. The bulk change of values is now working and the delete a node which was not working is now OK. It was a matter of loading the correct modules and enabling them in the right order. I documented the changes and enabling order on "Google Keep" if it happens again.

~

April 22, 2015      dance

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Got up at 3:45 to take Libbie to the airport at 4. She has a 5:30 flight which boards at 5 am!!!! this was trouble free. I tried the new paint on the unfinished boards but didn't work too hard because of dance this afternoon. I had a West Coast lesson with Melanie which was outstanding. I added the tuck turns, spin turns and passes to my repertoire.

She's quite good and I got a lot out of this lesson. For dinner I made a pizza using a premade crust from Kroger and put pepperoni on it in addition to the collection of spices.

~

April 23, 2015      membership

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I worked on the membership entity stuff today, setting up a play site on membership.avsa.org. Next I went out and built the door frames to be covered with Masonite. I needed to pick up 2 more 1x4's for the door crosspieces. While in Home Depot I also picked up a Rosemary in a one gallon container for \$10. I debated about getting the 2 gallon one for \$20. Libbie sent a picture of her Mom's birthday party this evening. They all looked happy. For dinner I went to Kroger and picked up a pack of baked breaded chicken tenders. Not bad but definitely not Bo's. I didn't get to bed this evening until well past midnight.

I did a lot of reading online and watching YouTube videos of West Coast. I also watched the movie Skin Trade, a violent Dirty Harry revenge type movie where a cop goes after a syndicate that killed his wife and daughter. He single handedly seeks them out in Bangkok and puts them all out of business.

~

April 24, 2015      freebie

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While texting Libbie this morning who is in Rhode Island, I ordered the Kroger Friday Freebie which is a Lindt Milk chocolate stick. Finished building the door for the new shed extension. Now it's time for the roof. I also touched up the paint on the installed trim and finished painting the door frame trim. Once I install this it will probably need a touchup. Rain is predicted for tomorrow so this may wait a day or two. Went to Kroger to get the rest of the ingredients for the crab dish. Picked up the Friday Freebie as well as the wine and leeks needed for the crab. Spent over an hour sauteing garlic, onions and leeks infused with brandy and wine. I added 2 Adobo chiles which was one too many since the dish was quite hot. I'm disappointed since so much work into this. Packed it all up with a ladle and my wine and left at 7:50 for the dance. I had a great time doing many dances.

There was no West Coast swing which was a disappointment. This was my strong dance and I was looking forward to it. I danced with Anita, Lana, Anne, Jennifer, Mary and Nancy. At 2 songs before 10 PM our name was drawn as the Grand prize winner. I danced the last 2 songs with Jennifer, a Cha Cha and a Swing. After the party I bought 2 tickets from Mitzi for the Spring showcase dance.

~

April 25, 2015      Cav and Pag

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I put the trim up around the door then it started to rain. This was good since I was going to the Opera today. Left early at 11:30 for a 12:30 performance to give myself time to shop in the Home Depot hardware department for a door latch. I bought 2 gate latches which is what I think will hold the door secure. Went over to the theater and the box office didn't open yet. They opened at 12:00 for the 12:30 performance.

I brought PB & J sandwiches for the intermission and also my iPad and the Mifi box for internet. Hardly used either device although I did find the iPad worked well on the 4G WiFi device. I really got sucked into the operas, cav and pag. Pag was my favorite thus far this year. This was the last HD of the season. When I found the new season was out I went home and added all the dates to our calendar.

Dinner was the leftover crab which tasted pretty good. I had some yogurt for dessert.

~

April 26, 2015      latch

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The darn critter dug two pretty deep holes in front of the shed. I filled them in as usual. It's still a little wet out but doesn't seem to be raining. I painted one of the boards to mount the latch and after the morning shows went outside and installed the latch on the newly painted board which was now dry. This latch works pretty well. I also really appreciated the torque of the new battery operated electric drill. It did a nice job driving the screws. Two of the screws had to be moved over because they missed the 2x4 behind. the heads got rounded a little so I found two replacement screws, not the same color but acceptable. Last step will be to install a door stop. While watching CBS sunday Morning today I learned of a Helen Hunt movie, the Sessions which sounded intriguing. She made it in 2012. I found it on PB and downloaded a copy. Still configuring the new computer. Today I had to install an MP# library and a DirectX driver to get audacity to work properly. All seems to be well. I edited the recording I made of yesterday's Cav and Pag. The new machine is incredibly fast.

I watched the Helen hunt movie in the evening. It was incredibly good.

Dinner

was PB&J sandwiches. I didn't feel like going out today.



~

April 27, 2015      Libbie back

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Worked a little inside the house until it was time for Libbie's plane. Left at 11 and got a call from her when I was as far as the Cary Pkwy. her plane was early. Did the pickup then after lunch we went to Kroger for groceries, a gift card for Home Depot and gas. With the 4X point deal they are running, we got 1,000 points for a \$250 gift card. This gave us an extra \$1 per gallon off as we filled both cars. I need the gift card to buy shingles for the shed. Dinner tonight was a rotisserie chicken we picked up with the groceries along with American Potato Salad. In the evening I listened to Merry Widow live from the met instead of going upstairs to work on the new computer. I also was able to put the door stop on the new doors to stop them from banging into the new siding and new roof edge.

~

April 28, 2015      shingles

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Hooked the trailer up this morning and went to Home Depot to get the shingles. Their system was down so the gift card was not processed. Instead I used my credit card for the purchase. Brook, the saleslady, said to come back tomorrow and she would refund the credit card and charge the gift card. Loading and unloading the trailer was a bear. I really killed myself on this task.. I had 10 bundles of shingles at approx 90 pounds per bundle. I'm really feeling it today. The trailer rode extremely well. I used the lawn cart to distribute the shingles to both sides of the building. I had to move some logs first and got stuck crossing the creek as the cart handle came off. Next job will probably be a bridge across the creek, I want to move the tractor over there a well to mow some weeds. Dinner was a crab hors d'oeuvre before a bowl of spaghetti with cheese. I'm really sore today.

~

April 29, 2015      drip edge

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I'm still sore this morning after moving all the shingles yesterday.

Removed the shingles from the lower section of the shed, repaired a piece of plywood that was rotted and then put new tar paper and the new drip edge on. I managed to put a few courses of shingles on the lower portion, a total of about 4 rows which consumed a package and a third (1 1/3). We had a nice dance lesson with Melanie. We continued on with West Coast Swing. I thought I knew it but there was so much we were lacking. I will continue learning. We also took our bonus winnings of 4 dance lessons and scheduled 4 tango classes with Melanie over 2 weeks on Mondays and Thursdays. Life is good. We left for Cav and Pag, the encore performance, tonight at 5:50. Traffic was heavy but we got to the theater with plenty of time to spare. I loved it as much this time as I did when it was live on Saturday. For dinner Libbie cut up the rotisserie chicken and put it on sandwiches which we had during the intermission between Cav and Pag. I know the music but this time I caught a lot more of the detail in the acting and scenery. All in all, I loved it. We walked out with a German couple who also were saying how much they enjoyed the performance. We had spotty rain on the way home but it didn't amount to much. My rain gauge registered .02 inches overnight.

~

April 30, 2015      shingles again

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Put down the blue tarp and anchored the ladders into the ground with a crowbar then climbed up to the upper section of the roof and started peeling off old shingles. We had a nice lunch break of a BLT then while Libbie went to quilting I removed the remaining nails and put down new felt paper since it's supposed to rain. I put one bag of shingles into the garbage can and decided it was too heavy. I will need to haul the remaining shingles to the dump. For dinner we had chinese takeout, our normal 3 flavor szechuan with an eggroll. We finished the leftover Chateau St Michelle Chardonnay. The great news of the evening was that I was able to run my app on the PC using the Google app "ARC Welder".

~

May 01, 2015      Horse and Buddy

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It rained all day today. I did not go outside to work on the shed today which was good. It gave me a chance to install my new PC in place of the old Manon 2 in the office. I worked on organizing some files and also was able to compile the B4A program. I also spent quite a bit of time learning about GIT. The bulk of my learning came from a Lynda.com tutorial that I downloaded from Pirate Bay. This was useful. I set up an academic account on BitBucket and successfully transferred a repository there for the B4A project. I'll use the same site for First Class so I could reconstruct any old version of the database. Late in the afternoon we started cleaning up for the Horse and Buddy gala which started at 6 in the Prestonwood Country club. the venue was lovely, the food was excellent but the menu was weird. There were no vegetables or salad greens yet there was a roast beef carving station, pasta primavera, cajun chicken over pasta and lots of yummy hors d'oeuvres such as crab and artichoke, bacon potato shooters and a bruschetta platter. The food was good though. The band was way too loud. We had an enjoyable evening watching the live auction, bidding on silent auctions and dancing. We sat with Anne and Paul, Anne's cousin and a couple from the studio, Zaneb and boyfriend. We stayed until 10 PM and left tired. Libbie won a silent auction of wood carved barn, fences and horses. this was fitting for a horse event.

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May 02, 2015      Century Club

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It's a gorgeous day. I spent some time on the new computer using GIT to archive the March 2015 First Class database. It looks like I have an academic license at Bitbucket. Regardless, I want to figure out how to install GIT on my own server. It's possible that I may have to set up a separate Linux machine to handle this task. Went outside and cleaned up all the shingles off the tarp I spread along the shed. They filled two heavy duty garbage bags which isn't too bad. I put a few bundles of shingles on the roof. I may get to the ridge tomorrow, completing one side. After lunch I passed out in my chair on the back porch. I was exhausted. Woke at 4 and went outside to pick up the tools and then cleaned up for Century Club tonight. This is a tuxedo event tonight. The event is at the Amran Temple which is on the other side of 540 up Creedmoor Road North. We were surprised by the building. It was a plain building with a small parking lot and chain link fence surrounding the facility. It's not an impressive first impression.

Inside was dark and plain as well. At our table was Jim and Jane, Mike and Ann, charlie and terry and Ken and Anita. It was surprising to see Ken and Anita here. Libbie made sure Anita sat next to her since she had not seen her in a while. The food was supposed to be "heavy hors d'oeuvres" but oh wow, this was way more than hors d'oeuvres. We had green beans, pulled pork, baked potatoes, squash, mushrooms, salad, and more. I brought a bottle of Chateaux St michelle Cabernet Sauvignon. It was \$14 in Kroger but a very nice cab and well worth it. I would like to find more at a better price, possibly at Trader Joe. Our dancing is getting to be better. Now we need variety in some of our patterns. The dance went to 11 but we stopped at 10 PM. I was pretty tired.

~

May 03, 2015      shingle one side done

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After the morning programs I went out and finished shingling one side of the shed building. this pretty much killed me today. I was dragging myself around. We had Libbie's wonderful pizza for dinner. Yummy.

~

May 04, 2015      day off

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After the killer day yesterday I took today off from physical labor and concentrated on GIT and the Seeburg interface software. Learned how to control the media server via telnet and also managed to compile a GPIO pulse measuring program on a PI. I need to merge this with telnet to get a solution for the wallbox. Communicated with the wallbox person in TN. She is going to let me test it out to see if I think it works. We had a very productive day with Melanie in the studio learning the basics of Tango. Stopped by Kroger on the way home and picked up a box of spaghetti which was our dinner with chopped up tomatoes and cheese.

~

May 05, 2015      BAAN Thai

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I have finally concluded that the only way I can get GPIO in C and Telnet to the LMS server is with two separate programs using separate languages.

The GPIO will be in C and the telnet in Python. I can probably read the configuration file in the Python file as well, making it easier. I stripped all the shingles off the other side of the shed building today. I didn't think I would get the whole thing done but it worked out OK. I fell asleep for 30 minutes after this task. We went out to dinner to BAAN Thai tonight. I had the Pineapple curry pork and a very very nice glass of Columbia Crest Merlot. It was very good. Dinner with tip was \$67. Today was Cinco de mayo so we celebrated Thai style.

~

May 06, 2015      wallbox

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Cleaned the nails off the shed building and put down the tar paper in case of rain. The wallbox came as we were leaving for our dance lesson.

At the lesson Robert was coaching some Realtors for a private show they are having. We fine tuned our Cha Cha with Robert and added a few new steps. I would like to continue on this path with him for our last lesson before KC. Dinner tonight was strawberry shortcake.

I supplemented with a salad. Nothing else. Yeah!!!

The wallbox appears

to work. Somebody rewired the lights which I am changing back to original. They also bent the coin operated reset bar which I bent back in position so it resets a coin after the selection is made. Did not have much luck with the scope but the ohm meter showed the switch is grounding the stator properly at each point on the wheel.

~

May 07, 2015      wallbox

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This morning I found someone who successfully decoded a wallbox pulse train using python. I'll attempt this approach since I can use telnet quite easily in Python for the other part of the program. Went out and put up half of the shingles on the South side of the shed roof.

Came in to get cleaned up for our lesson with Melanie at 4:15. When we got there we found she was injured, her knee was taped with an ice pack. We chatted a while with Mitzi, Atlanta and Melanie then went

home. This was good since I was tired. I continued with the Python program for the wallbox in the evening. In the afternoon we went to the Farmers Market and picked up some plants as well as beets and potatoes which we had for dinner along with strawberry shortcake. That was it for dinner! Hooray again. Listened to one of the last live broadcasts of the season, the Merry Widow, while I worked on the Python Seeburg program. It was a pretty good night.

~

May 08, 2015      Tango

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I went out and put more shingles on the South facing roof. I now have to use the ladder to reach these shingles. At 3:30 PM we had another excellent Tango lesson with Melanie. We went over what we had done in the previous week and took it further with a left turn and also two different fan or sweep steps coming out of a promenade.

In the evening

we decided to go to Arthur Murray in Durham for the Rollins quartet and also dinner. We ate at Teds Montana Grill, a bison burger grill and American food. We each had a Stella draft then I ordered the Cadillac burger with Bison. The burger had BBQ, chipotle ranch, bacon, cheddar on an Oatey bun with onion straws. It was huge and delicious. It came with an order of hand cut fries. We finished dinner at 8:07 then went to Arthur Murray in the same Shopping center. The dancing started at 8 PM. It's a smaller studio and is a storefront with windows looking out at the shopping center parking lot. The Rollins quartet plus one was excellent. We stayed until the end at 10 PM and danced a lot of Foxtrot and waltz including a mixer which was fun. We both had an enjoyable evening.

~

May 09, 2015      shingles done

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Finished the shingling job in the morning. All I need now is a roof cap. Went out with Libbie for epoxy at the dollar store, ribs and wine at Target, rosemary plant at Home Depot and Kroger for the Wall and misc. Dinner was ribs, Mondavi Cabernet and potatoes and beets. Raspberry and chocolate yogurt for dessert. I built the adapter for the wallbox

but don't see any output. This may be user error. I have to move on to the FC4A program this week.

~

May 10, 2015      album

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During the CBS Sunday Morning News program I built a photo album of our adventures from Plano to New York. I have a voucher that will expire so I wanted this complete. It's now done! I got going on the import/export routines. This is the first build on the new computer which now works. Had some issues with the click event that's now fixed.

Next step is to monitor for the upload file. Libbie made some excellent pizza for dinner. We also did some practice of the Tango from Melanie, this time it was a flare from Promenade, two different types.

One with an underarm turn and the second just a walk. We also did an open left turn which is kind of cool.

~

May 11, 2015      Indoor

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I stayed inside all of today working on the user database for FC4A. I managed to get a webserver going on the Android device to transfer files. It seems to work quite well in transferring files. The phone arrived in the mail today. I'm happy with it. the default language seemed to be Portuguese and the phone seems to have come from Brazil. I was able to configure it for US English and log into google which meant all my apps transferred over. I'm extremely pleased with the phone.

It makes more sense than buying a phone like the BLU which I was considering and had a lot less capability. This has 8 gb of memory, a nice resolution screen and is responsive. Good stuff. We went for our 4:15 lesson with melanie but she passed us off to Robert since she has been practicing for the Spring show over the weekend. Robert is good but this was disappointing because we were making forward progress with melanie. We rescheduled this Thursday's appointment for June 4 since Melanie probably won't be much better with all the practice going on. Dinner tonight was a salad with tuna over it. This is good to be going light again. I continued to work on the app late into the night.

~

May 12, 2015      meeting

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Libbie worked her tail off getting the house clean for the meeting today. I made tuna and also picked up some other things at Kroger such as potato salad. The meeting was pleasant although I had better things to do. All had left by 3. It's a hot day today, in excess of 90. the temperature probe on the station has been intermittent lately, it worked for a few hours this afternoon before quitting again. I need to take it down and retry plugging the connections to the probe assembly. Others have reported problems with the conformal coating on the temperature PCB. Had some communications with Barb today about the committee meeting in KC. I have to pick up Libbie at 5 but I will make the meeting for 4:30 and wait for her call. Dinner of course was the leftover tuna fish on sandwiches and some potato salad. I did some more work on the app after dinner but was pretty tired.

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May 13, 2015      tomato stakes

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The grow boxes are really coming along. The tomatoes need staking. To accomplish I decided to first try cleaning the greenhouse gutter. Found an ants nest in the gutter. After cleaning it and the rest of the gutter I tried setting up the ladder to pound the 10 foot tomato stakes into the ground. Not much luck trying to get the ladder stabilized. instead I decided to go to Lowes and buy a pipe one size larger to cut into pieces, pound into the ground and then plug the 10 foot poles into. I also found the 3-in-1 Motor oil and picked up a single tube LED for my closet. I need more light in there and this will give it to me.

We went to our dance lesson with Robert at 3:30 and had a very good lesson. We reviewed our Tango turn then concentrated on Cha Cha. I learned how to do the chase turns and also the spot turns. It was a great lesson. For dinner we went out to BAAN Thai They were out of Merlot so we had Melbac. I ordered the Pad Khing stir fry which had ginger, garlic, mushroom, bell pepper and onion. i ordered it with Pork. Libbie had the Classic Curry. My dish was excellent and a little on the hot side. I ordered #2 heat (out of a scale of 1 to 3). When we came home we had strawberries and cream on short cake



which Libbie made earlier. Yummy. I heard from John today about the May update. I spent the day trying to figure out how to make the update files. Hopefully i'll have this done tomorrow but I want to test it first.

~

May 14, 2015      good day  
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Finished the update today and tested it using a tgtest.jpg encrypted map on fc4a and all was well. The normal map is named tglst.jpg. i renamed and then released the update. Libbie tried it on her phone and surprisingly it downloaded and updated her phone. I celebrated by going outside and picking up 2 more of the larger conduits at Home Depot. i also got a new pad for the sponge map. I cut each pipe into 4 sections and pounded them into the ground then plugged the 10 foot sections into the shorter sections. Tied all the tomatoes and was surprised how some of them were sprawling all over the place. It's almost too late to tie them but with masonry string I'll get them trained.

They look ugly for now. I'm sure the sun will turn them around and growing normally. I found a small Sony Bluetooth speaker on eBay and ordered it. I should have got the larger one but this will be a good start. I later found the larger one for only \$10 more. I still may get it. The 8gb Sandisk cruzer drives arrived today. These are nice, ergonomic and compact. I like them. I used one to transfer the dance files from my laptop to the chromebook. Dinner was a salad for me and a small taste of Lib's leftover Curry from last night. Boy was it good. I will be sure to order that next time. Stayed up late working on the user db program. Only 2 weeks till convention which is my goal for release.

~

May 15, 2015      dance  
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Continued work on the import function. There is so much to do and time is counting down. I did some research today on Alaska cruises. I found an interesting company called uncruise which is a small ship adventure cruising company. We did the Farmers Market. Libbie picked up some begonias and I got some impulse plant, something called Celosia. I was attracted by the orange plumes. I came back and got back to

the app. Had to give it up late in the afternoon to get ready for the Spring Showcase which was at 7 PM at St Michaels. The venue is very nice. It is spacious and bright with a very high ceiling. The performances took up the first hour or so then we had the catered food which was basically finger food. The bar remained open throughout the evening. It was a fun evening and was over by 11.

~

May 16, 2015      Shriners

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Spent the day on the app with the exception of some time in the garden to put a corner sprinkler in the West garden. I have a user with a subscription problem. His cell phone battery was replaced and now his subscription is gone. I have found a potential problem with the subscription management functions. I worked as long as i could then at 5:15 PM took a shower to get dressed for the Shriner dance. We got going at 5:45 but still got there before anyone else. Social hour started at 6 and dinner at 7 and dancing at 8. We sat with harry & Terry, Nancy & Steve, Mike and Ann and Anita and Ken. It was a fun evening. The DJ was good, the companionship was wonderful.

~

May 17, 2015      debug

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I got right to working on the app this morning. I can't get the cursor version of a query working but the single query does work. My other problem is the ListView sometimes won't return the correct value when using the ListView2 which saves the ref ID with the plant name. I switched over to the ListView 1 which does return the correct value.

Turned the west garden water on today to monitor the new 90 degree sprayer. It works well. The grow boxes however are not getting water when I turn on their solenoid. Something is wrong. I'll work on this later in the week. Libbie made her wonderful pizza once again. Intermittently throughout the day I read "Hope" which was the story of 2 of the girls held against their will in Cleveland. I'm not sure if I will finish it. Stayed up until 11:15 working on fine tuning the user database display.

~

May 18, 2015      Photo import

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After mastering the data import, today I worked on the photo import. I discovered a few issues I had with looking up the Refid. Now the problem is if a plant exists in the database and the user adds that same plant it doesn't get picked up by the display list. May have to add the Refid to the file name for user files. Anne and Richard called today on their way to W Texas. They had some ideas for changing the DVD content by scanning groups of plants while doing narration. I checked Libbie in this morning at exactly 9:35 and got number A22 which was incredible. The plane must be empty. Spent a lot more time in the afternoon and evening on the app. I now have given it the capability to add individual photos by pressing on the "no photo" image. Dinner was spaghetti with cheese sprinkled on the tomato sauce.

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May 19, 2015      airport

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Took Lib to the airport for her flight to LAX at 9:30. Traffic was very heavy, I crept on the way back to I-40 at the airport since there was much traffic. I'm glad I'm not a commuter. I continued working on file import in the app. Time is running short. Dinner was baked BBQ chicken from Kroger and some Macaroni salad. I was looking for baked beans but they don't carry that anymore.

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May 20, 2015      walmart

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I pretty much finished the import function of the app. Amazingly, the more I test it the more little things I find. Even when I think it's fully tested, something else pops up. I hope it's robust. I tried a data export but filenames have a problem when downloaded. They have a lot of junk attached. I may release this without export. I put the new cover teaser on the website along with the cover for the May issue. Dinner tonight was leftover baked chicken with Lib's barbecue sauce before microwaving. In the afternoon I got out and went to Walmart. Picked up shortcake shells and strawberries as well as a pack

of raspberries for breakfast. I went there to get cereal and coffee as well a milk. Looked at the electronics department for a Sony A6000 but it was pretty much stripped bare. This store is not so great. I suspect it will be closed one day.

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May 21, 2015     tee shirts

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Went outside and put what shingles I had onto the cap of the shed. I went out to Home Depot to get more shingles. This was combined with a trip to the Credit Union to deposit a \$20 Newegg rebate check for the SSD, I also got \$200 cash for the trip next week. On the way home I stopped into Micky Ds to use my coupon for free Southern chicken which expires today. The sauce was good, the chicken was pieces of what looked like fried chicken. I had this with a small order of fries. For dinner tonight I mixed up some tuna with mayo and cut a celery stalk into pieces. Yumm. I continue to find problems in the app. In the evening I tried to change a picture on a record and got a crash.

It turns out I pushed the button twice which resulted in a not found error since the app removes the picture after it has been added. I put in a toast wait message as well as a an activity finish statement which closes the activity. Working on the documentation continues.

My King size tee shirt order also came today. I like the new shirts, they are advertised as heavy. I don't think so and like them. They have a pocket - not bad for the price which was under \$10 each.

~

May 22, 2015

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It's a relatively cool morning, only in the fifties outside. Went out early and finished the roof cap on the shed building. Came inside and updated the FC4A doc some more and also added a hidden command feature from the command line ala Google chrome. A command starts with &quot;cmd://&quot; and then the mnemonic for the command. So far I implemented the admin override for subscriptions, giving the admin a 24 hour pass to updates. This worked surprisingly well. It only involved adding 24 hours worth of ticks to Time.now and using this to override the subscription expire time which normally comes from google if there is a subscription. I can't find the bluetooth microphone adapter

I purchased a year ago. I need this to hook a mic up to a tablet or phone.

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May 23, 2015     ios

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Picked up some provisions at Walmart that I needed such as coffee and cereal. Worked on the iPad program today. Spent a lot of time just being able to compile. My new computer was not set up for it. I found the powerbook I have is down one level too low to use as a compile machine. I really a newer version of IOS to do a compile. I ended up using the offsite machine I subscribe to. For a local copy it takes a long time. Dinner was 2 small pizza shells I bought int Kroger.

I also bought some Breyer GS cookies thin mint ice cream. It wasn't as good as the cookies themselves.

~

May 24, 2015     audio

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Hooked up all the audio stuff on the kitchen table. Couldn't get any good recording into the computer. I got only a loud hum. Found how to use the camera audio in and set the levels. this is a new feature of the version 2 firmware that I installed this week. With the volume levels turned way down it's acceptable. Dinner tonight was the last of the hamburger with an onion slice and ketchup. It was good. Worked some more on the iPad program getting last minute details fixed.

~

May 25, 2015     gardening

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Worked on IOS all day with a little success. I also worked outside on the gardens. Tied up the tomatoes and got the watering straightened out. Dinner was tuna salad sandwiches.

~

May 26, 2015     travel

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I got up at the normal time and dragged everything down to the car. Hope it's all packed and I didn't forget anything. After a normal breakfast I was going down the driveway at 7:30 PM. Traffic was not heavy at all, I was expecting worse for the end of Memorial Day weekend.

I did a gas stop in Shelby for \$2.59 then it was clear sailing until Nashville. At approx the Hermitage exit I looked ahead and saw nothing but black and I was going straight into it. The sky opened up and buckets of rain came down. Traffic slowed to 20 MPH for the duration of the storm. It was all over in about 15 minutes and the sun came out but the traffic still didn't get any faster. I did a roundabout way to get onto 24W because the ramp and the highway were at a standstill.

I took 40W until 65N and went parallel to 24 but a few miles West. This was a good move since I soon picked up 24W and continued.

Once outside of NAsheville I stopped for gas and used my smartphone to cancel the reservation in Paducah since it was only 3 PM with the time zone change. Made it to 19 miles before St Louis and called ahead to the Holiday Inn to see if there was a room available. There was a room so I decided to go for it. Bought gas at 2.89, had a chicken sandwich at McDonalds and hit the road again.

I wasn't tired yet and

it was 8 PM when I was driving through St Louis. Took a little rickety bridge across the Mississippi next to the St Louis arch, it was dark but pretty scenic since the arch was lit up nicely. Had an uneventful trip across MO but around midnight I was hoping it would be over.

Couldn't believe the GPS took me through downtown. I wasn't even sure I was going to the right location but soon I reached the HI and checked in at 12:30. Into the room at 1 AM and out cold.

~

May 27, 2015      friends  
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Breakfast at 8 and sat with Marjorie, Dolores and Susan Hill. Had a nice chat with them, answered Anne on a text letting her know I was in town. Hung around most of the day then went to the Internet meeting at 4:30. During the meeting I got a text that Libbie was on the ground.

Left the meeting which was ending and went to the airport only 4 miles away and picked up Libbie. At 6 we had the Library meeting. Anne nicely provided sandwiches for everybody. We got our assignments which included more video work. After the meeting we went to the opening

by Nancy hayes and then the Growers Forum which was quite interesting.  
Went up to bed very tired once again.

~

May 28, 2015      banquet

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This was a work day. Tried to record Marie's presentation in the morning. We had multiple problems including the camera turning off every 10 minutes by both Paula and myself. Not sure what is happening. I got nothing on the 7d when I tried audio recording. There was only a hiss on the card. I need a real video camera. At the designated time which was around 1 PM we hauled everything into the showroom and started doing the library photography. It went pretty quickly. Andrea and Libbie moved plants from the into and out of table. Marjorie of course did the design photography. Andrea conducted an interview of Bill Foster and Paul Kroll while overseeing the designs. There was a lot of video involved.

In the evening we got dressed up and went down to dinner. We sat with the Philly girls, Barbara, Peggy and Linda. Joan had to sit on the dais. We had a newcomer at our table, Divina, who lived in Kansas somewhere. It was an enjoyable evening. The awards evening went quickly which was great.

~

May 29, 2015      truman

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We had breakfast in the hotel with Barbara and Bruce. We enjoyed them. Bruce has the info table for the Kansas club. After breakfast we stayed in the room for a while doing computer work then I went over to the lecture which started at 10. Mary talked about Chimeras in a very good presentation. After that we drove to the Truman library. This was such a thrill for me since it had the maps for the planned invasion of Japan from the White House war room. Dad was stationed in Luzon which was listed as occupied territory. This was incredibly fascinating stuff. Instead of the invasion they decided to drop the atomic bomb. We left there just after 4 and met Anne and Richard who were rounding up a crowd to go out for dinner. We had dinner at an Italian place called Bravo which was excellent. I had shrimp Campanalle ala forno which was outstanding. I had it with a glass of chianti. We

drove our car with Joe and Andrea. We visited the street fair going on afterward. Such fun.

~

May 30, 2015      awards

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This morning we had breakfast with La Donna and Sharon in the hotel. I had the buffet breakfast. I went to the Design derby which featured 4 designers who went through several rounds to finally reach the final round. BJ won the contest. I wasn't planning on being there but stopped by and got sucked in since it was so interesting. We went out for lunch to Smokehouse BBQ 2.5 miles down the street from the hotel.

It was quite good. In the PM I listened to Joe give a pitch on First Class and I gave a little talk during part of that presentation.

I answered many questions during the presentation about the Android version. We had 2 requests. One was the background color which one lady did not like in black and the other request was for user notes in each plant. We were late for the banquet since we thought it started at 7 but it was really at 6. We arrived at 6:15, folks were already having salad. We had Filet Mignon which was incredible. During the awards ceremony I received a continuing service award for service to the Society. Woo Hoo!

~

May 31, 2015      Flamingo Row

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Left the hotel at 6:30 AM. Saw Linda, Steve and also Belinda. It was a nice time we were leaving. We left in a light rain which stayed with us even a little ways when we reached I-70. Had breakfast at McDonalds then a bathroom stop later where we got more coffee and a cinnamon roll. Made it into Paducah with an empty tank of gas. Found the museum downtown on the river and paid for the tour which was \$4 above the price of admission. It was worth it to get an overview of the collection. The quilts were spectacular. We were so happy we came. We saw the best in show for 2015 by a pair of Facebook quilters. Wow, spectacular. We stayed until almost closing time then went to find out hotel. They assigned us a first floor room which was musty so we swapped for a 2nd floor room which was much better. Dinner was at Flamingo Row where we had a wacky waitress named Lindsey in a very quirky atmosphere.



The food was excellent. I had the Pirates Pleasure which was chicken with mango chipotle BBQ sauce and mashed potatoes. It was outstanding. Lindsey was a mess. She's incredibly friendly, pretty but a scatter brain. The bill came out to \$75 the first time she did it. We pointed some discrepancies to her so she went to fix it and had help from another lady. The final bill was \$48 plus tip. This was better.

~

June 01, 2015      drive

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We left Paducah at 7:30 after the hotel breakfast. This is 6:30 East Coast time. It was raining on and off on the way. We got a text from Joe that he was working in Clinton today and that he could give us a plant tour. We took him up on this and drove to Clinton. The drive isn't too bad, even with the rain. We met Joe and got a nice walk through of the facility. Had lunch in Clinton at McDonalds then hit the road and had more rain crossing the Smokeys. The winding roads got to me, I was getting punchy. I pulled off at a quick on/off interchange and Libbie took over, thank goodness. She ran down the tank of gas while I slept soundly. She pulled into a gas station around Hickory at 6:30 PM and I took over from there. Luck was with us and there was no more rain to home. We chose to go straight to La Cocina instead of home for dinner. Got into home shortly before 9 PM.

~

June 02, 2015      unpacking

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Had to run over for milk before breakfast this morning. Today was mostly a day of unpacking and getting organized. Made a second Kroger run to fetch spaghetti for dinner which we had with tomato sauce and pizza cheese topping.

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June 03, 2015      Margaret

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Learned today that Margaret Juntwait, announcer for the Met, had passed

away this morning. This was sad cause she was only 58 and I really liked her. I spent the day getting the user notes function working on FC4A. Dinner tonight was sirloin hamburgers with tomato, onion and baked beans. We also had the meal with St Michelle Cabernet Sauvignon. We're home!!!!

~

June 04, 2015      cleanup

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I made very good progress cleaning up the functions that display plants for wishlists, inventory and user notes. Had another problem reported when updating. It looks like an out of memory error. I tried updating my phone and had no problem. Not sure what the issue is with his Nexus 7. I haven't used my Nexus 7 since Google screwed it up with Android 5. Dinner tonight was tuna sandwiches with yogurt for dessert. Very nice. Booked the last of our hotels, this time a B&B outside of Krems in the Wachau Valley.

~

June 05, 2015      Dance

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I discovered another problem with First Class. I discovered that Venus has three violets with the same name, different hybridizers. Naturally, the third Venus doesn't display correctly. I need to fix this. I think I have most of the other things fixed. I would like to spend more time cleaning this program up but as usual, time is not on my side. We practiced a little bit of tango from our tape with the melanie lesson. For dinner we went out to Baan Thai where I had the Classic Curry with chicken. For appetizer we had the star crab. Accompanying the meal was a glass of Columbia Merlot. Service was pretty slow, the place was full which was good to see. We left the restaurant at 8:02 and went straight to the studio where it was nice to see everyone. My dancing personally was terrible, I really need to do something about this. Attendance was sparse, I guess school is out and vacations have started. After the party we went out to Waverly Place which was very nice. We stayed outdoors and had a glass of wine with Ken and Lana, Ken and Anita and a new couple, Chip and Dawn. It was a nice evening.

~

June 06, 2015      saturday

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I called the Wall Street Journal this morning because I received notice of another subscription that was going to start Monday. This is not good since we are leaving Sunday for Zurich. The great news was that they extended my subscription for another year. I think this is an error. We went out today to Kroger and got Menage A Trois wine, veggies for my Curry and lettuce as well as trail mix, etc for the plane.

Dinner was the leftover Curry with a nice salad. Yum. Lots of getting ready for our trip. I put version 12 of the software on Google today. This fixes Brenda's problem and adds the user notes feature.

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June 07, 2015      trip

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After the morning programs I started packing all the stuff we gathered.

While filling the hummingbird feeder today I dropped the glass measuring cup and broke it. Libbie lost her camera battery charger but the old one fit so she took that. We are checked in for tonight and we do sit together but in the middle section. Oh well.

Once at the airport

we printed boarding passes and lo and behold, we are together on both flights.

Left home at 6:15 and used the Park and Relax. We were promptly taken to the airport by the shuttle driver. Found out there were meals on the flights. We left the gate on time at 8:30 PM and soon we were off on our adventure. They served a red wine before dinner and 2 red wines with dinner - 3 glasses total. Dinner was a salad and chicken and rice that tasted like a Lean Cuisine. The seat was cramped of course but I fell asleep. The good news was the 2 seats next to us in the 5 across seating were empty.

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June 08, 2015      lucerne

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I woke up groggily to the flight attendants = serving an awful breakfast of yogurt with Granola and an apple cinnamon bun. The coffee was OK. We got off in London and walked for miles then got on a shuttle for Terminal 5 where we had to go through security again. They searched my carry on because of the laptop and Libbie's because of my contact solution and iPad. Should have taken them all out for xray. Our next plane left at 12:20. It was a very nice British Air flight that served a BLT wrap for lunch. Good flight with OK food. We each had adjacent aisle seats. I like British Air. Found the Salt store and got a simm card with 1 Gb data plan for \$11. What a deal. Next we exchanged \$250 USD for Swiss Franks and finally picked up our rental car, a Hyundai station wagon diesel. It fortunately has GPS. Traffic was ridiculous getting to Lucerne. Once there we wandered lost before using the Lucerne travel guide app to find our hotel and take us there. We parked the car and left it parked then did a short walk around the city and across the Chapel bridge before returning to the hotel. We ate in Bolero, the hotel restaurant. Incredibly, we had pasta and shrimp prepared in a flaming cheese bowl. It was memorable. We passed out once in bed.

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June 09, 2015      day one

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We woke later than usual - 7:15 AM. This was making up for last night's lack of sleep. The bathroom is ridiculously small. The shower is a tiny closet that is a challenge. Had the hotel buffet which included scrambled eggs with cheese and lots of good things like bacon, fruit, yogurt, pastries, sausage and hash brown. What a filling breakfast but lousy machine made coffee. It's raining so we chose to walk to the Wagner home. This was educational.. I learned Wagner was very short and his wife Cosima was incredibly tall, They had 3 children before getting married. The problem was she was still married to Hans Bulow but married Richard immediately when granted a divorce. We had a nice time with Susan the cashier in the house. She's a displaced Australian. We discussed Wagner and families, her parents and children

Next

We walked old town finding the bridge again. Tried for lunch at an Italian place but after sitting there for quite a while we visited a British pub which was much better. We had 2 beers and 2 burgers

with fries for \$50 CHF. Walked up to the Lion sculpture then walked the medieval wall. It was pretty tiring. Enjoyed it all very thoroughly. For dinner we had Tapas in Bolero, the hotel restaurant. Once again it was a winner. I ordered chicken and shrimp, Libbie ordered beef, lamb skewers and cheese quesadillas. We returned upstairs tired and full.

~

June 10, 2015     Elm

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It's a rainy morning. I looked out the window and saw people with umbrellas walking. The bikes are still going everywhere. It's amazing in this city how many people commute via bicycle - there are thousands of bikes everywhere. After breakfast we spent quite a bit of time fooling with the GPS before getting it to find Glarus. This thing is not easy. We had a delightful trip to Glarus where we parked the car near a church and walked around. The church bells went off at noon and spent a good 10 minutes ringing. Unbelievable. When we first came into town there was a McDonalds which we stopped at to use the bathroom and get decent coffee. The coffee was the same horrible instant stuff. We went to the park in front of the train station, I had to use the bathroom in the train station. Inside was a nice map of Elm. We then drove down the small road to Matt and Elm. The road was amazing. There was a snow shed over one part of it and a huge waterfall going off the roof that we drove under. Once in Elm we stopped at a Vong which is a convenience store and bought cheese and bread. The woman there was very colorful and helpful. She lived there all her life. We discussed cheese and Stauffachers. She gave us the correct pronunciation. She knows they live in the next town, Matt. What fun. On the way back Libbie decided we should go up and over a mountain which was fun. There were hundreds of switch backs, many motorcycles and beautiful valleys with incredible vistas and cows with clanging bells everywhere.

It was a pretty long trip to get back and finally the last leg we crept in Lucerne traffic to the hotel. We were too tired to go out very far so we chose to have Tapas in the hotel with a beer. We ordered chicken, shrimp, quesadilla, and skewers of pork & lamb and swapped. The food was great, especially the skewers. The beer was excellent. I passed out tired in the room.

~

June 11, 2015      Mt Pilatus

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It's a clear day so we checked out of the hotel after breakfast and drove to the Mt Pilatus station in Kriens which was pretty close. We bought the ticket which included a train and bus ride back. Took the cable car then tram to the top, walked around a little then rode the funicular back down with an Australian tour group. They were quite nice. They are on a taste of Europe tour going from Rome to Lucerne to Paris and places in between. They wish they could stay longer in Lucerne. The train ride back was comfortable then the number 1 bus to our car. We bought cheese at a little Farmers Market on the corner of the road to Pilatus. Programmed the GPS and off we went, this time to Lauterbrunnen. We made good time but i was tired. Our hotel is under construction which is too bad. I was a little down about that. We walked across the street to the train station and bought transportation passes. \$550 for 3 days worth of passes for 2. We then took a tram to a station where we could take a narrow gauge railway to Murren. We walked around Murren and bought drinks and a wooden cow. Libbie had credit card problems, my card worked fine. I didn't think the block of wood was worth \$17. She wants a cow bell which is probably even more but I admit sound way better than the Chinese crap.

~

June 12, 2015

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It looks like a clear day. We went down to breakfast and had eggs, sausage, dark bread with jam and coffee. The hotel breakfast is nice but not as nice as in Lucerne. I had scrambled eggs with sausage and an assortment of fruit and bread. The coffee is awful, same as Lucerne. For some reason, they have machines that grind the beans then pour hot water over them. WE headed out to Jungfrau. The cog rail leaves from the station in Lauterbrunnen then goes to another level where we get on the jungfraubahn to the top. There are 2 stations built into the mountain where I got off and took pictures. It's an engineering feat that they could carve a station into the mountain. At the top it was disappointing that the mountain was fogged in. We walked the tour through the ice palace, the fantasy land, and all the other areas. We had hot chocolate in the self serve restaurant which was not great. I enjoyed the ride back. We met an American couple from Connecticut

who had a condo in Wallersee for 2 weeks and a rental car like us. We also met a Swiss woman who was retired traveling on a retiree swiss rail pass. She gave me the correct pronunciation of Stauffacher and told us he was an famous canton leader in 1200. What fun. We changed trains in in an unpronounceable town and took a train for Lauterbrunnen.. Found the cheese shop downtown and bought some excellent swiss cheese and a bottle of Dole Du Valis &quot;Val Souche&quot; which is an 80% Pinot which was very good.

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June 13, 2015      Last day in Lauterbrunnen

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After breakfast we had a fun ride to Schilthorn and Piz Gloria restaurant. We started on the tram next to our hotel then took the narrow gauge to Murren. We had a short walk to the Schilthorn station where we found we had to purchase another add on to our region pass. That cost \$132. Two more trams, the one to Birg then change to one to Piz Gloria. It was a perfect clear day. We enjoyed the mountain views of the Alps then had an Apple Strudel and coffee in the revolving restaurant. IT was great, we enjoyed the food and the rotating view. We next slowly made out=r way down, stopping for a while in Birg to hang out on the deck and take pictures. At the base of the lift in Murren we found the Blumenthal trail and started climbing. The flowers were spectacular and the best I have ever seen. We kept seeing waves of colors as we walked upward. After 5 hours we arrived at the Funicular where we had a sandwich and beer before getting on the train for the ride down. Wow! What a day. We had the hotel dinner again, the last at this hotel. We ordered a full bottle of the local Dole vineyard red. The courses were salad, Semolina soup which was new to me and was like a fine grain cereal in an onion soup base and pork chops with potato slices baked and carrots. Yummy to it all. Dessert was a sorbet with a very tart rind of lime running through it. What a nice ending.

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June 14, 2015

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We had the breakfast early then packed our stuff and started for Zurich

at 8:30. We have a 1:00 flight. We had no trouble driving to the airport but once there we went once around looking for Enterprise. We did not have a chance to buy fuel to top the car off. Security went well, however my carry on was searched even though I unloaded the ipad and laptop. The flight was pretty rough although the plane was only about 3/4 full. We had an empty seat between us. When we finally smoothed out, I would guess past the mountains, they served ham and cheese sandwiches and water. Once in the Vienna airport I found a provider to purchase a prepaid sim card from and also a fixed rate taxi service.

Our driver was pleasant in a Mercedes. Rate was 36e plus an 8e tip. In the hotel they assigned us a stinky smoking room. We went back to complain and got a nice big suite facing the Secession. Very nice. Once at the hotel we walked into town towards St Stephens and found a money exchange. I only changed \$100 at 1 euro per 1.24 USD until I could figure the rate out. It started raining, we bought an umbrella and a map. Made it to the Danube then started looking for a place for a drink. Stopped at the Post Hotel and grabbed a beer. On the walk back we found an Italian restaurant on the corner where we ordered pizza and beer and luck was really with us. The sky opened up and poured like crazy. We enjoyed a nice thin Margherita pizza and buffalo pizza. Libbie watched the pizza maker making the pies. He seemed quite busy. The rain stopped and we walked back to the hotel after a tiring but pleasant day.

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June 15, 2015      First Day

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Our first full day in Vienna. We started with the hotel breakfast buffet for 17 euro each then walked to the Naschmarkt. Walked half way down admiring the various stalls with vegetables, fruits, cheese, meat, fish and cafes. We turned left and headed towards Belvedere palace while experiencing Vienna street life. The streets are narrow and lots of people on foot and bicycles, many well dressed, heading everywhere. We did a lot of walking all along the Palace wall to get to the entrance then purchased entrance to the upper palace. There were 3 floors of art including the excellent impressionist collection and the works by Klimt. I enjoyed the Kiss and Adam and Eve as well as some of his lesser known works. He loved woman and depicted them graphically at times such as his bride in the see through dress with pubes clearly framed. We then walked in the rain about 10 minutes to the large train station where we purchased a 72 hour transportation pass.



We rode the train back and went to the Naschmarkt for lunch where we found a place we loved - Longnacht Treff. I had a homemade sausage and brown bread with mustard. It was good. Libbie had alpine cheese and bread. We loved the waiter who kicked people out begging as well as playing music. There was a long haired troubadour playing a guitar and singing "Country Roads". Next a middle eastern band came through but the waiter wouldn't allow them to collect tips. We liked the guy. Bill was 20e with tip. We rested at the hotel before getting cleaned up for La Sylphide at 8 PM in the opera. We thoroughly enjoyed the ballet. We had good seats in Row 6, 5 from the end. Very good site lines, I didn't need the binoculars. The Sylphs were actually flying across the stage. They were good, holding still propelled by wire. They didn't look real. The Orchestra was wonderful and the music was joyful. Love the ballet. Afterwards we went into a Subway across the street for a turkey on honey wheat with chips and a drink. I had tea with lemon. We split a 6 inch sub.

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June 16, 2015      Laundry

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Nice hotel buffet again of eggs, bacon, roll and marmalade with awful coffee. We first tried looking for food in the Naschmarkt but had no luck. Most places were just getting set up. It was a nice walk before breakfast. We packed our laundry into the carry on bag and headed for Stephenplatz where we exchanged money. I got 133 euros for \$200 USD which I don't think was very good. We did better yesterday. Next stop was the laundry on the other side of the city. I was short 20 cents in euro which a very pretty blonde gave me. She was nice and helpful and had a gorgeous petite body. We had a little trouble understanding the machines and the system. We chose to forego the hydro extractor which was a mistake. We ended up taking twice as much time in the drying process because of this. On the way back to the hotel we stopped at the OBB in Westbahn to buy combi tickets for the train and boat cruise on the Danube. The agent was very nice and helpful. The tix were 51 euros each round trip. Made it back to the hotel and dropped off the laundry. Walked up to the butterfly garden and paid the 5 euro each senior rate. It was very hot and humid in there. The butterflies were beautiful, there was a varied assortment of people photographing them. It was nice to get back outside into the 70 degree air. We walked along the front of the Hofburg and got on the #1 ring train as far as it would go on the Danube. I enjoyed a lot of pretty

woman on the train with cute asses at eye level. Wow. We then took the number 2 train down the other side of the ring and got off at the Opera which is our stop.

We had some granola and fruit before the opera then left at 6:10 for the opera. Wow, was it dressy. A lady had long elbow length black gloves. We saw plenty of tuxedos and other finely dressed people. The Austrians next to us were quite nice and spoke a little English. The Opera was spectacular. The singing and orchestra was over the top. We really got into the opera with this staging. It was well done. Stopped at Subway across the street and had a sandwich after the opera - we split 6 inch turkey with chips and iced tea.

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June 17, 2015      boat

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We had the hotel buffet then went to the train station where we missed the 9 am train. Got onto another pair of trains that took us to Melk anyway. We initially were in First Class then got kicked out and went to second class. At the Abbey we walked around the town then walked up to the Abbey where we latched onto an English speaking tour. The history of the Abbey was interesting. We learned of a WW2 work camp in town with 10,000 prisoners and an underground factory still in existence. Our guide pointed to a field. After the Abbey walk we sat down to lunch where I had a beer and a vegetable strudel. We had trouble finding the boat and approached it the long way. We got underway and had a loud bunch of teenage boys in front of us so we changed seats.

Met a very nice young student who wanted to be a classicist. Wow, is he not in reality. He is studying German and French and currently is in the summer program. It was cold for the short boat ride from Melk to Krems. I'm not sure I would recommend it as something to do.

We found the train in Krems after a very very long walk. We met some people from Wales who were lost but we had the map. At the station we bought granola and chocolate then met 2 nice girls who helped with our train and scheduling. One of them was from TN. We got back without any further troubles after getting off a few stations before the Franz Josef terminus so we could pick up the U4 line to Karlsplatz. At Karlsplatz we got a little disoriented and had trouble finding the direction for the hotel but the phone helped us out since it knew where we were. For dinner we found the restaurant Peter and Christa usually visit. I had the spicy shrimp, Libbie had sea bass which was fantastic.

We had a nice bottle of recommended white wine. What a nice final night in Vienna. After dinner we went up to the Opera where Rigoletto was already in progress. We found seats and stayed until the end. The sirens, people and traffic was great atmosphere for an outdoor opera viewing of the stuff going on inside the opera. What a night.

~

June 18, 2015      Neufelden

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Thurs June 18

WE chose to take the CAT train to the airport. We checked out and skipped breakfast going straight to the Karlsplatz train station. The issue was my 2 suitcases and Libbie's big one. They are difficult to manage on escalators, stairs, etc. We took the elevator down to the platform and noticed there was no line at the McDonalds so we each had an Egg McMuffin and coffee. Then it was 2 stops on the U4 line to the station that has the CAT. We had a little trouble with the ticket machine since it was in German but a nice lady helped us. Two tickets were \$12 euros each. The train is clean, smooth and fast. We hit the airport in 16 minutes then the fun began. We had miles of walking to the rental cars then even after getting the car paperwork, we had some difficulty finding the parking deck with our car. Eventually we got to a quirky Renault with GPS in the dashboard. It was a standard which was a little challenging at first but we eventually got going onto the autobahn without much trouble. Stopped at a beautiful rest area called Rosenburgers. The food there was laid out in unbelievable displays and looked delicious but I only got a coffee take away as the Europeans call it. When exiting the autobahn into the rest area, I forgot we had a manual transmission and needed to downshift. The car started bucking and stalled in the parking lot but it restarts itself which is nice.

The rest of the journey was uneventful and we arrived in Neufelden without trouble. We had to call Peter and Christa since we couldn't find their house but eventually all was well. There was a bicycle and baby toys laying around so we thought we had the wrong house. They have a condo type house where they own the upstairs. We had a glass of wine then had a nice lunch with them of cheese, fruit and sliced prime rib. It was delicious.

We went to the hotel Mulholf on the river where I took a nap. They then came down to the hotel and took us on a tour of town and an old church.

Beautiful. We learned they were married on Aug 5, 1966 which is 49 years ago. Their 50th will be next summer. They had to get married in a hurry since Peter got a 3 year assignment teaching Math at Michigan State and Christa could only come if they were married. IT was the silly Visa system at work. We had a lovely and elegant meal at the Hotel Mulhof. There were outstanding breads. I had a beef soup for appetizer then the main course was lamb chops with a lot of good veggies, etc. We had many bottles of nice wine with dinner. Luckily we didn't have to drive since we were staying here.

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June 19, 2015      Winkler

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This morning we had a lovely buffet breakfast at the Muhlhof then took a drive into town and walked around the village. Then we went back to the hotel check out. We saw a guy fishing with a fly rod off the dam behind the hotel. He was wearing waders and it was scenic. The road crew started working on the bridge next to the hotel with their loud equipment which spoils the ambiance a little. Up to Peter and Christa's where Libbie went with Christa and Peter went with me. We took the back way to the Winkler hotel in Strandbad Wallersee. There were a lot of scenic little towns we drove through before arriving. It's a little chilly and sprinkling rain. Peter and Christa seem to know everyone here. We had a lovely lunch which included lots of wine and a raw fish appetizer marinated with a mound of julienned veggies.

Excellent. Then we had the fish dinner for 4. The fish were grilled and served from a tray at the table. After lunch we did a small lake walk, got caught up on some journalling and fixed the IP address at dyndns. Apparently there was a big storm in Raleigh. We showed over one inch of rain. I don't have an updater client running so I went to the Panasonic camera which displays the IP address. I manually updated DYNDNS so that I could get to traviata again. I need to install an update client when I get back. The thermostats and the camera work fine, everything based on dyndns does not such as caliber, the sprinklers, blue iris, etc.

We joined Christa and Peter for a 3 hour dinner which was a large Pike for 4. It was fantastic, complete with 2 different deserts. An Austrian knuckle and an apricot filled crepe. I left there totally drunk because we had so much wine but it was a fun evening.

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June 20, 2015      rain

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We had breakfast at 8 with Christa and Peter. They made us eggs and coffee which I had with croissants and a fresh warm bread. Wow, it was good. It is pouring rain outside. We said our goodbyes and then drove to Salzburg in a driving rain that was so loud I couldn't hear the GPS. We ended up at the parking garage in Old Town carved into a mountain. I bought an umbrella at the first gift shop we found, a bright orange one for 3.90 euros. We walked blindly in the rain looking for the info center. We finally found it and got a map and sat down in a coffee shop and had coffee and a Linz while figuring out the maps. It was a nice quiet time. We next headed out down a few narrow alleys, past city hall and across the bridge over the Danube. We found the beautiful Mirabell Gardens. We saw a bride having photos then a few weddings which were going on in the palace. Men in lederhosen and women in Heidi dresses. IT was very pretty. We found another shopping street that was picturesque to wander up so we took a hike. Toured an art gallery that a nice owner invited us in to. Libbie loved the sculpture. On the way down the hill we found a little pizza place that we had a margherita pizza and beer for lunch. It was incredibly good and fairly inexpensive. We made our way back down through throngs of tourists and found Mozart's birthplace before making our way back to the car. We had no trouble bailing out the car but it was \$20 Euros which was high considering we also had the ticket validated by a restaurant. Total time in Salzburg was probably around 6 hours. I filled up the tank on the way back which cost 34 euros for around 26 liters of gas. When we got back the sun was out again and it was beautiful but an hour later it was pouring rain. We had a lovely fish dinner at the hotel Winker. This time it was a perch-pike for 2. Included were the salad, carrots and potatoes. We had a bottle of Austrian red with dinner and I had a raspberry parfait for dessert. Libbie had the Apricot crepes. Very nice dinner!

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June 21, 2015      summer

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First day of summer. We had the buffet including the delicious croissants at the Hotel Winkler. The sun is shining on the lake and it's a beautiful morning. We left around 10 and started the drive on the autobahn to the Wachau Valley. We stopped at a McDonalds in Wallersee for coffee. Wow, the cakes and cookies were out of this world for a McDonalds. The autobahn trip to the Wachau was on and off rain but nothing too bad. The automatic wipers on our Renault Captur rental car are pretty amazing. I wonder how they work. The Wachau is truly beautiful. Our hostess at the Hotel Donauhof was charming and friendly. She suggested the Restaurant Heinzle and even called to check on a table. We walked across the street and found a nice table along the river. We each had fish but different kinds. They were delicious. Mine was smoked trout, Libbie had the Sieberling which I think is a Pike/Perch. Later we walked the little town which was lovely. IT started raining on our walk but we were OK. We ducked into a little hotel cafe area which was trellis covered by grape vines on the side of the hill overlooking a vineyard. It was nice. We ordered a Reisling and had our wine in the vineyard. After wine we walked down to the train station in Weissenkirchen where it started raining again. We sat on the bench under cover in the train station and waited for it to let up a little before resuming our walk. This village is wonderful! It's so scenic. Rested in the room a little before going back out for dinner. Our hostess gave us the name of a winery and a wine bar where we could get a traditional cold plate and some wine. We chose the one next door called Haus Mange which was next door. We saw a large tour group get dropped off here earlier. There is a large sweeping lawn to the Danube in front of this place. I originally thought it was a garden. Inside our english speaking waitress helped us with the menu which was in German. I ordered a meat plate and Libbie ordered a cheese plate. We also ordered 2 rolls and ended up with 2 glasses of wine. My first was a Reisling and the second was a xxxx. My plate had some mustard and a slice of swiss which I combined with the ham on a roll and made a little sandwich. The meat plate was good but it was too much food for a surprisingly small amount of money, about 6 Euros. After dinner we went back and found there is a self serve wine bar which also had Apricot Schnapps which I wanted to try. We went in there and had a single bottle which we split into 2 shot glasses. Wow, powerful stuff. It was good.

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June 22, 2015      fly

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We waited until a little after 8 when the buffet started in the hotel.

It was a very nice spread. 4 people seemed to be celebrating a birthday with a chocolate cake and 4 candles and glasses of champagne. We noticed this to be a normal occurrence in Europe, champagne for breakfast. Next we walked along the Danube enjoying the river and started seeing some of the cruise vessels passing. We found a stairs in the wall which we climbed to above the road. Up there was another small village with cute streets and buildings and once again, many flower baskets. This is so scenic and beautiful. We found the Domaine Wachau winery as well as some small scenic wineries. I really like this Valley and would like a return visit, possibly to take day trips via bicycle to explore. I noticed eBike rental signs in addition to traditional rentals. It would be fun. We also enjoyed the artwork in our hotel. It's decorated with original watercolors of the surrounding villages and flowers. Nice. Checked out around 10:30 and drove to the Vienna airport which took almost 2 hours. We had one false attempt at finding Hertz in parking garage P4 but were successful on the second attempt. Dropped the car and checked into Niki Air. The stewardesses on this airline are all young and pretty. Today they all had tight jeans on for their uniform. The flight was incredibly smooth into Zurich. We waited a while for the Holiday Inn shuttle which only ran once in this hour, at 16:45. The hotel seems to be brand new. It even uses the room card to activate the room lighting. Fortunately, the outlet was independent so we could go out but the outlet still recharged our devices. We walked next door to Valentinos for dinner and ordered a Margherita pizza and 2 beers, 1/2 liter size. Very nice and it was the perfect amount. We had Swiss chocolate ice cream bars in the hotel lobby when we got back. At first they couldn't find the key to the ice cream case and just as we were about to go to the grocery store next door, the manager found a key and sold us 2 ice cream bars. Up in the room we got the Republic Wireless phone onto Wifi where Lib was able to make a phone call to Sue about George's broken leg. He will have surgery today to repair a bone where it plugs into the hip socket. The only concern is his age. Libbie also called her Mom and got Barbara on the phone who was staying there. Eventually she spoke with her Mother to chat for a while. We went to bed at 9 PM because we have to take a 5:15 shuttle to the airport in the morning for a 7 AM flight to London. I lowered the electric blind in our room - this seems to be a Swiss thing, electric blinds.

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June 23, 2015      home

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Woke this morning at 4 and started getting ready. Went down to the buffet breakfast in the Holiday Inn at 4:30. It was a disappointment. The roll were cold, there was no hot entree' so I had cereal and coffee. Even the fruit was some kind of stuff out of a can. The 5:15 shuttle was on time, we made our way to the British Air check in and sailed smoothly through security. My bag made it without additional screening.

British Air served a cold croissant with ham and cheese and pepper ketchup inside. Not great, I didn't finish but the juice was good.

Did the Heathrow bus between terminal 5 and 3 and sat next to a lovely girl from Shelby working for the World Health organization in Zimbabwe.

Lovely young lady, getting married next week. Lots of screening to get into our gate area for the flight to Raleigh. We had a total of 5 glasses of wine. First meal was cheese ravioli, second round was vanilla ice cream and the final was a mergerita wrap which I liked.

The ravioli came with salad, cherry crumb cake, cheese and cracker and a pretzel roll. We got in early at 1:30. We had to wait quite a while to get through customs. Not sure why they are so slow, this is the only International flight into Raleigh. Got home, rested a few hours, then went to Kroger for groceries. We weren't very hungry so had some watermelon and a peanut butter sandwich for dinner. We should stay up until at least 9 or 10 but I was so tired I went to bed at 7 PM. This is considered not a good idea to reset your biological timezone.

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June 24, 2015      broken PC

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Did a lot of waking last night, finally got up pretty early around 5:30 and did my shower and morning routine. My PC has a problem, the screen keeps jumping around. Did a virus scan and uninstalled a number of programs but could find no problem I started researching PC replacements.

Ordered 4 tee shirts from King Store and had trouble selecting the Tall size. I accidentally selected big. Had to call and get them to change the order. I couldn't make a paypal payment because the amount window kept jumping around. There is something wrong and it helped me do a complete PC cleanup including virus scan. No trouble found. I'm in trouble! I didn't touch any of the pictures yet since I'm still a little spacey and the PC is broken. Libbie made spaghetti



for dinner with tomato sauce and cheese.

~

June 25, 2015      what happened

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I used the chrome book a lot last night and this morning because of issues with the Acer laptop. This morning I pulled the Hard Drive and looked at the interface to match it up with 2 older hard drives that I have. Unfortunately, the older drives are IDE and laptop uses a SATA drive which is not compatible. I put it all back together and surprise!

The PC problems have gone away. I don't know why. I hope it lasts. I have a sore throat today and am not feeling very well, especially with a stiff neck. I researched laptops a little more and was very impressed with a Dell 11 inch touch which is a tablet and laptop.

I found one on Newegg refurbished and ordered it while cashing in the 1300 points I earned with my desktop purchase. Bottom line was \$275 which I thought was excellent. I went to Walmart to look at PC's and the Dell touch was what I liked. I tried to buy an oil filter at Walmart but they were out of them so I ordered 2 Toyota oil filters online from eBay. Dinner was a salad with tuna over the top.

~

June 26, 2015      sore throat

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Still recovering from our trip and a cold or sore throat or something. Worked a little in the garden today but in general didn't do much. Got the tomato and peppers tied up. Weeded a little. Took a nap. I set the fan up under the house to get rid of the musty smell and it seems to be making a difference. Dinner was hamburgers on buns with onion and corn on the cob which was too young to be sold. Only half the ears were any good. We had this with Ravenswood Zinfandel. We watched the first half of the Sound of Music tonight which I copied onto a flash drive. It's in HD and occupies 10 gigabytes.

~

June 27, 2015      rain

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Today was a pretty rainy day. Spent time organizing photos and files and watched the remainder of Sound of Music with Libbie. It's a nice movie and fun to see all the Salzburg stuff that we saw last week in Austria. Dinner was shrimp, corn and a bottle of Rodney Strong's Cabernet. Good day but very wet. We had around 2 inches of rain.

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June 28, 2015      gorgeous

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It's a gorgeous day today. After the morning shows I went out and weeded along the fence then mowed along the fence and around the creek with the hand mower before switching to the tractor to do both the front and back yards. There is no humidity and the temp is only about 80. Rested up a little then grabbed the blower and did the garage and driveway from the months worth of accumulation of pine cones and pine needles. Dinner was Libbie's wonderful pizza. Copied the trip pics onto an external drive so that I could put them onto Libbie's laptop. It only took 15 minutes to copy 20 gigs onto her machine.

~

June 29, 2015      farmers market

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Replaced the faucet in our bathroom today. It's been leaking for about 2 months so it was nice to get it done. I'm not thrilled that the drain is plastic but at least it went in pretty easily. They have it all set up for DIY installation - easy as pie. Did a Farmers Market run today and on the way back picked up a cooling rack in Whisk, the Cary Kitchen store. I'm going to roast some Zucchini using a recipe I saw on Facebook today. This round of Zucchini had an overwhelmingly pepper taste. Need to try again. Our dinner was Farmers Market corn with the Zucchini spears.

~

June 30, 2015      new PC

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Last day of the month! Where did June go? Libbie has been working the

garden while I spent most of the day configuring my new PC which arrived today. It's a Dell convertible with a 500 Gb hard drive and touch screen. The keyboard is wonderful, I love it. The jury's still out on using this thing as a tablet.

For dinner we had the Zucchini again along with a salad. The Zucchini this time came out pretty good.

~

July 01, 2015      cooking

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Carolina Ballroom is closed today so our Wednesday lesson is canceled. I used the time to continue configuring the new laptop. I also started my travel blog which is pretty slow going. Cooking Light sent an email recipe with Italian Sausage and Penne pasta. I purchased the ingredients at Kroger including Pecoreno Romano cheese which is a sheep cheese. We both worked on this in the evening. I purchased Hot Italian sausage with Libbie's OK. This meal was delicious. I only wish we had wine to go along with it. The BBQ grill parts arrived today but I won't be able to work on them because tomorrow I committed to work on the BB website after I pick up some Hardi Board siding.

~

July 02, 2015      Win XP

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I hooked up the trailer and picked up the Hardi siding at Lowes. They didn't have the Masonite for the doors but I have enough to get started with the Hardi Boards and the trim boards. I tried installing VB6 on my new Win 7 desktop but it wasn't happy. I couldn't get the compiler to run so I switched to the old Manon2 computer which has Windows XP. The database compiled smoothly. I also tried copying some of the Manon2 files to my flash drive but after copying all day something failed and I got nothing on the drive. I will probably set up Manon2 in the back workshop for use like this. I have an old keyboard and mouse and I could use one of the old monitors laying on the floor back there. It may not have an Internet connection back there. Dinner was leftover sausage and Penne pasta along with a salad. It rained pretty good this evening while we had dinner on the back porch. Total was 1/2 inch this evening.

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July 03, 2015      web page

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Today's task is to get the new Bluebird inventory online as well as several other changes such as removing books and memberships and events from the menu. This is not straightforward and may involve program changes. I set up the old Manon2 computer, moving the monitor, keyboard and mouse over from Manon3 to compile the website using VB6 which doesn't run on Win 7. I may permanently set up the new computer in the back shop using one of the old 19 inch CRT monitors laying around. I want to get started on the shed but held off until the website is finished. I finally got it all figured out and installed a site for review but changed the index page so you have to use new.htm to access it all. We went to the Farmers Market today. Wow was it crowded.

We got watermelon, canteloupe, corn and tomatoes. Dinner tonight was the leftover Italian Hot sausage on buns. I took 3 peppers out of the garden and sliced them up with onion and stir fried them on the stove in Olive oil. Buy was this good. Accompanying this was some Farmers Market corn which was not very good. It's still too early for corn, the ears are not fully filled out. We had this with a bottle of Shiraz which came from Trader Joe today on the way home from the Farmers Market.

~

July 04, 2015      remove siding

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I changed the front page of Bluebird to reflect the new pages I put up this week. The site is now live. Libbie wants to sell down the violets until they're gone. Work continues on my travel blog but it's a slow process. I managed to get all the old siding off the front side of the shed today. Now I get to reside the building. Of course we had 1 inch of rain after i took the siding off. I read in the WSJ yesterday that the Holly Madison book about the playboy mansion is the surprise best seller of the summer so I found it on a torrent and downloaded it. I also found the USA Today top 20 and added them to Calibre.

Calibre nicely tells me which ones it already has and adds the missing ones. I ran over to Kroger today and picked up ribs which we had for dinner along with some small potatoes that Lib picked up in the Farmers Market. We had this with a bottle of Shiraz and I had watermelon

for dessert.

~

July 05, 2015      peach pie

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I put the Hardi siding onto the shed today in two phases. It really ran me down. Now I need to purchase the material for the doors. I had trouble with the printer on my new PC. I'm once again blaming Win 8.1 since it only allows me to have something called a home group and the upstairs PC is using a work group but upstairs is win 7 pro. Libbie made her pizza again. The Bluebird website is getting orders since I put it online yesterday. Dinner was homemade pizza and home made peach pie which Libbie made earlier today.

~

July 06, 2015      dance

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Went to Home Depot today and picked up the siding for the two shed doors. I got particle board and am still debating whether that was a good choice vs compressed board. In order to seal it I painted both sides of the boards as well as the Hardi siding which was installed yesterday. I also purchased new hinges and screws but forgot to get the few screws that need nuts and washers. These are the ones that do not have a 2x4 backer. Possibly I can put some wood behind the hinges in those spots. I did a little more blog work, this time working on Wagner but did not complete it. Libbie started packing plants again today after a month off. She shipped around 100 plants which took all day.

We left at 5:45 to go to the Roadhouse in Pittsboro. Tables are available starting at 6:15. We didn't see the parking lot across the street from the Roadhouse and parked down the street in front of an ABC store. Next time we'll know better. We ordered dinner which was pulled pork and slaw for me. Our friend Bill said he is partial to the catfish nuggets so we ordered a plate of those to share. They were incredibly good. The NC Revelers had 18 musicians and a vocalist and were quite good. We danced quite a few foxtrots, a Rumba or two, one swing and 2 waltzes. Ken and Lana also joined us at the Roadhouse.

It was a delightful evening. It went on until 9:30 then we had a pleasant drive home. I only had one beer and drank water the rest of the evening.

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July 07, 2015     blah

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Did not feel like doing much today. I had difficulty breathing and was listless all day long. Libbie blamed it on being out last night. I picked up the Tuesday groceries including sausage and ingredients to make the Italian sausage and Penne Pasta with cheese. The credit card closed out yesterday. Our total is over 8,000 and includes all the European trip expenses.

~

July 08, 2015     tango

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Went outside and built another shed door but did not have a hinge to install it. Apparently I only bought 2 hinges this week. Need to go back and get more. We resumed our ballroom lessons with a wonderful Tango tuneup with melanie. We showed her all we know and she critiqued us and gave us pointers to improve. It really was a worthwhile class. We had the leftover Pasta and Sausage from yesterday. After dinner I went to Home Depot and got the missing hinges and a bag full of screws to finish the job. Anne called today about the DVD. She also requested a second DVD, this time one with the Mary Corondan Cimera presentation.

~

July 09, 2015     hinges

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Nancy came over today to help Libbie. I worked outdoors and installed the missing hinges as well as all the screws in the corners of the doors which serves to hold the underlying frame together. This was a lot of screws and bolts but I finished the job. It is pretty humid outside. I got totally soaked. Now I have to paint all the trim boards. Will leave that until tomorrow in the morning in the shade. Dinner tonight was sausage with peppers and onions and corn. Libbie had gone to the Farmers Market after her afternoon quilting group to get corn and melons.

~

July 10, 2015      Broken AC

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I painted all the trim boards with 2 coats of paint then left them be.

Got my new PC back on line and decided to look at the interviews Marjorie sent me. The audio is pretty low and not too discernible. Went out to dance tonight for the 8 PM party after having a sausage split in two with corn on the cob, Dance attendance was light this evening. We went out to the Italian restaurant in Waverly place with Paul and Ann after dance. Libbie and I shared a pizza with a beer. When we came home we found that the upstairs AC wouldn't turn on. Uh oh. We slept in an 81 degree room all night long which wasn't too bad.

~

July 11, 2015      fixing ac

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Went into the attic this morning to diagnose the blower which is not working on the AC. I swapped the old blower for the new one I installed 5 years ago. It didn't seem to work. Checked the web and found the RE Michel closes at noon on Saturday. It was 11:05. I cleaned up and jumped into the car and drove down Tryon to Garner and got there in about 20 minutes. I picked up 2 caps - one for the old blower and one for the new. While it was out I tested the blower in my shop by hooking up a line cord to the leads. It started immediately. In the middle of the afternoon I went into the attic wearing only jockey shorts and swapped the blower yet again. It was pretty hot and I dripped all over the floor. After about an hour I got it all wired up again and sealed up. The blower worked with the new starting cap! yeah.

I took a shower to cool down then lay on the bed while the AC cooled the upstairs which had only gotten up to 82. In a while it was cold while I continued laying on the bed nude and reading a book on the iPad. Libbie had a great plan for dinner. I had previously purchased Shiraz at Trader Joes. She suggested we have Chinese takeout. We picked up Szechuan 3 flavor and 2 eggrolls from the Chinese takeout next to Kroger. After dinner I went to bed early with the AC upstairs working nicely, it was pretty comfortable!

~

July 12, 2015     trim

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Went outside and put up all the remaining trim on the shed. Later I used caulk and finished the job. Now it needs some touch up paint. Libbie made her super pizza from scratch today. When we were lying in bed tonight an eMail came from Richard with the list of plants attached for the convention DVD. Here we go again!

~

July 13, 2015     roadhouse

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I hooked up the new computer again, disconnecting Manon 2 and now running Manon 3. I installed Photoshop 5.1 and a host blocker file to prevent the program from calling home then started on the AVSA photos. I first thought the photos came out horrible but then realized the monitor was tilted at an angle to stop reflections from the light stand.

The photo exposure is quite good although I am glad that I used bracketing. It was not necessary to shoot the raw pictures that I did but I left them in the mix anyway. I may move them to a separate directory. I worked all day on photos but only got a third of them done.

At 6:12 PM we left for the Roadhouse in Pittsboro. Mr Wonderful and a 5 piece band were playing. We went for dinner and met Ken and Lana there. I had a fried flounder sandwich and slaw. 1 1/2 beers topped it off with water for the rest of the night. It was a nice evening of mainly foxtrot and a very easy drive home.

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July 14, 2015     avsa photos

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Finished up the photos today for AVSA then posted them on a new subdomain I created. Did a short grocery run then we had spaghetti for dinner.

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July 15, 2015     dance



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Worked outside tying the tomatoes. They're getting big and we have a lot of ripe ones. Practiced a little Rumba today then went to our lesson with Robert. We did Foxtrot promenade spot turns and also some Rumba open breaks leading to a spot turn. This worked out pretty good and we thought we had a successful lesson. Dinner was imported rigatoni and imported sausage, wine and cheese tomato sauce I bought with a coupon. It was really good.

~

July 16, 2015      oil change  
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Started building the eBike in the garage. It's kind of hot and I'm not really that much into it yet but I'll recover. We wanted to use some garden tomatoes so for dinner we had tuna fish sandwiches with tomato on them. The heirloom tomatoes are awesome and plentiful. Changed the oil in the Corolla today along with the filter. This is in preparation for my Florida trip. While looking up the number of quarts in the manual I discovered that I only to change the oil every 10,000 miles.

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July 17, 2015      dance  
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Worked on building my eBike today but stopped in the afternoon to rest and clean up. We went to dance tonight for the first time in a long time. there weren't many people there this evening. We had a salad with tuna on it before leaving. After dance we went to Brewsters and had a beer and wings. Got home around midnight.

~

July 18, 2015      first run  
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Worked on the bike and did the first test runs with it. Not happy with the rattle in the back which is the battery compartment and a really bumpy ride on the front tire. Measured the front tire with calipers

and discovered a 1/4 inch difference from one side to the other. Will have to replace the tire which is hard since I tied the cable down with cable ties. The cable goes from the controller to the wheel hub. Dinner tonight was leftover Rigatoni with the nice pork and wine sauce.

~

July 19, 2015     bohanjgles

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Took Libbie to the airport this morning for her 9:55 flight to Rhode Island. Meanwhile I continued working on the bicycle and replaced the front tire. Took it out for a test run around the block. In the evening the tire was totally flat. Discovered the rim wrap is important, it wasn't there so I got a hole in the brand new tube. Dinner was BoJangle chicken dinner with dirty rice, biscuit and iced tea. Dessert was breyers vanilla with hershey kisses ice cream. didn't feel too good after this combo. Ran out to Walmart at 11 PM and bought two new tire tubes.

~

July 20, 2015     Tire

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Went to REI and got rim tape for the wheel. I also went to the DMV offices and stood in line for a long time to straighten out my lost registration. Came back and fixed up the front tire with the new tube then did a test run. All is well. For dinner I got some more of the imported sauce and sausage and made some Rigatoni. It was pretty good.

~

July 21, 2015     getting ready

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I still wasn't keen on traveling to Sarasota. Did a little more work organizing the pictures for the AVSA library. Took the other bike out of the shed and pumped up the tire then I did 2 rides around the block. The first time it was with the Walmart bike. The second time I used the mountain bike. I certainly prefer the Walmart bike and will look at getting another one. The mountain bike has more power, it

probably has something to do with the homemade battery pack. The only problem with the homemade pack is the lack of a BMS which can be detrimental to the batteries over time. Dinner was cheese on bread with tomatoes. This was the same thing I had for lunch. Packed up everything for the trip tomorrow.

~

July 22, 2015      travel

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Got going a little after 7 after having a normal breakfast. Loaded the car and took off. Did a gas stop just before Florence. Next stop was in Baldwin, FL where my card was declined at a Pilot truck stop. Used the CU card to make the purchase. Arrived in Sarasota at 6:15.

Got on the phone with Cap One and found out that Pilot pre-authorizes a \$150 purchase which cap one doesn't allow. The theory is that it's a truck stop and gas purchases are usually for higher gas volumes.

Went to Walmart for supplies then to Publix for a chinese dinner from the buffet. I had gen Tsao chicken, some sweet and sour and an egg roll with some rice. Also picked up a bottle of St Michele Cabernet Sauvignon.

~

July 23, 2015      rib night

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Not much going on today. Set up my computers and copied the flash stick with all the AVSA show pics onto the old laptop then started a ProShow project for the pics and audio. Took a walk outside today. Dinner was a full rack of ribs which I only had half of. It came with house salad, veggies, baked potato and rolls. I picked it up at the bar and they did not ask for my card which was good because it's at home.

I finished the wine from yesterday which I had with the meal. The ribs were tender and delicious.

~

July 24, 2015      ribs and rain

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Rain today all day. It's pretty miserable out. Stayed inside all day

reading online. Discovered the You Now app where kids broadcast themselves live. It's amazing, it seems to be mostly young girls. I like the dance channel since some of the dancers are good, others are horrible. Most of them are very young, 13 to 16 with a few 19 year olds. Dinner was the rest of the ribs from yesterday. I accompanied it with a Klondike bar for dessert.

~

July 25, 2015      more rain

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The rain continues. It's coming down pretty heavy, Anne called and said she heard Sarasota will get 8 inches. Tampa already has over 10 inches.

Went out in the afternoon to Venice and also to Walmart in Osprey.

Had a nice time, visited the auction market in Venice on Tamiami.

The place has eclectic furnishings. I liked the carved wood pelicans all over the place. If there was a carved wood Flamingo I would have bought it. I did find a metal sculpture of some Sand Cranes that I really liked except it was \$229. I have been looking for a sculpture or painting to I might measure the wall and go back and measure the object again. Dinner tonight was cheese toast with some of the garden tomato I brought down with me. I had Raspberry-Chocolate Roadrunner ice cream for dessert.

It was a Wagner day on the radio. While working on pictures I listened to Walkure from the Met. In the evening they played Parsifal. I was transported!

~

July 26, 2015      sunday

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Up very early this morning. Watched GMA while working on this journal.

I had not put in an update since last sunday. Did all the catchup.

Forgot to mention that yesterday I erased all files in the glembocki.info web site and installed PMWiki which seems to be a wikipedia clone open source software. I'm probably even going to use the mediawiki theme to really look Wiki like. It's still raining outside this morning.

Got a good deal of work done with the AVSA DVD. I was wavering over whether to go home tomorrow or not. In the end I decided to go and packed up a suitcase. I purchased fruit earlier in Walmart

for the trip. Dinner was the other half of a BLT I ordered for lunch from the grill. The side accompanying it was apple slaw which seemed like regular slaw but a different dressing, not sure what apple has to do with it.

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July 27, 2015      drive

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Up at the normal time and started packing the kitchen. Watched GMA and waited for 8 AM to avoid Tampa traffic. Took all the icemaker ice and put it in a kitchen garbage bag and tied it at the end for my ice chest. Filled the thermos and put the ice chest with fruit in the front seat and got going at 8:21. Up around Tampa it was raining so hard I could hardly see in front of me. When I got to I-4 I decided to go East immediately to try to get out from under the rain. It worked, the drive was good and the sky was blue and sunny. Had a problem at Disney World. all lanes were stop and go due to an accident in the left lane. Once clear of that it was flying all the way. Did a rest stop before Jacksonville and a gas stop around Brunswick. Hit heavy downpours of rain once again in Brunswick where I couldn't see in front of me. A few miles of this and it cleared permanently. The temp hit an even 100 in Manning, SC and stayed there for several miles or about an hour. Next tank of gas was at a BP around Florence where I paid too much. Pilot across the street was cheaper since they don't have a surcharge but I was staying away from Pilot. Got home at 7:45 without any problem. Bought a rotisserie chicken in Kroger along with baked beans and potato salad for dinner.

~

July 28, 2015      home

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It was hard getting going today after the long drive yesterday. Worked on the electric fence since there were deer inside the azalea fence yesterday. Cleaned the charger, used WD40 on the terminals and assembled everything again. Plugged and unplugged the main power cable on the porch which seemed to be the real problem, not the charger itself.

Dinner tonight was the rotisserie chicken and beans and also a few Klondike bars as a treat. Threw the rest of the package away. Need to stay away from that stuff.

~

July 29, 2015      airport

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Had a normal breakfast and worked on AVSA some more. Lost all of yesterdays debugging Mel's addressing problems with earthlink. I think everything is now fixed. Picked Lib up at 10:15, her flight was early. She kept texting me from 6 AM on as to where she was. We went to our 3:30 dance lesson with Robert and once again it was another good one. We brushed up on the spot turns and chase turns. After dance we went to Staples to look at desk chairs. I bought one for \$129 that looked cheap but it was comfortable. I have to put it together. Dinner was leftover chicken rotisserie with a can of bourbon and sugar baked beans.

~

July 30, 2015      busy

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Fence not working again. I cleaned up the contacts of the plug on the back porch and got it working. Finished up the horticulture section of the DVD with the exception of 2 pictures, the library group shot and the tours shot that needs the Truman library added. It's pretty hot and humid outside. I was disappointed that my order from ambient weather came and it only included the soil moisture sensor. The temp sensor which I really need is drop shipped from elsewhere. Dinner was Rigatoni with the good imported wine and sausage sauce. Earlier today I ran out to Lowes and got a new shop light for my workshop which i installed and also a 6 outlet wall outlet for behind my night stand which is now in place as well. I feel productive!

~

July 31, 2015      Friday

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Finished up the design section of the AVSA DVD. Now I need to review it and the horticulture and make notes. Still have to edit 2 pictures in the horticulture. Kroger's Friday Freebie was awful. It was a Yummy Tumme which is a red fruit punch with no fruit juice and all chemicals.

Went to ride my bike around the block through Vintage Grove.

Love the bigger bike from Florida but the motor may not have enough battery power behind it because it keeps cutting out when I demand power at low speed or standing still. After a salad for dinner with tuna over it we went to Dance at 8. It was a fun night, we did a lot of dancing then went out to the Cary Pub afterwards. Our wings and second beer order got lost somewhere so Tom took it off our bill which was nice. I kept our tip the same \$6 for 2 beers since I didn't think the waitress should be penalized.

~

August 01, 2015      Aug 1

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Rode my bike some then updated the Bluebird website which meant having to switch the computer over from the new one to the old one because Vbasic doesn't run on the new one even though i tried. Got all the updates done. For dinner we had shrimp with corn from kroger and a bottle of red wine they were sampling in Krogers.

~

August 02, 2015      bird net

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I have a squirrel eating my tomatoes. i ended up putting up netting covering the plants but it didn't work. He was sitting on the fence eating another tomato after the netting. This is unhappiness. I set up the trap and finally caught a squirrel. Late at night I went out and dumped him at Kroger. Dinner was Libbie's wonderful pizza. On my half of the pie I put pepper and onions. Yummy pepper from the garden!!!

~

August 03, 2015      Pittsboro Roadhouse

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Looked at another bicycle in Walmart to switch my bike over but didn't make a decision. Finally got around to mowing all the grass today including using the small mower to do trim work. Now I need to put down some herbicide. We went out to Pittsboro at the Roadhouse for dinner

and the NC Revelers, an 18 piece band. The dance floor once again was very crowded. For dinner I had the fried flounder with bacon and remoulade and slaw. Very tasty. I had 2 beers with dinner. We left early since I was tired and Libbie had jury duty.

~

August 04, 2015      dvd

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Libbie did her jury duty appearance while i stayed home and got my actions loaded into photoshop on the new machine and completed the 2 missing photos for the horticulture section of the convention DVD. This was the tour slide and the library group shot. I added Penny, Marjorie and Janet to the mix. She was excused from jury early and brought back goodies from the farmers Market. for dinner we had hamburger with fresh tomato and watermelon for dessert.

~

August 05, 2015      dance

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I spent time organizing files on my PC. The backup drive is full and needs help. I may employ a second drive to backup movies which will significantly offload the backup drive. There is no need to bring the movies file to Florida for offsite storage. We went to our dance lesson at 3:30. It was a success, we tuned up the cha cha turns a little, both the spot turn and the traveling turns. We then switched to Foxtrot and practiced the back turn which I was doing wrong. I also taped this turn for practice. Robert tried talking us into the showcase but Libbie is not interested. The cost would be \$250 plus \$25 per heat. This would come out to around \$350. This is steep for a day of dancing. Dinner was spaghetti. I jazzed mine up with banana peppers and jalapeno. The jalapeno was a huge problem. I used my bare hands to cut it up which was no problem but when I went to pee my penis was burning with fire. I went upstairs to the bathroom and used soap and water and a washcloth to try washing the stuff off. It really burned. Later at night I took my left contact out and screamed in pain with a burning eye. I used a glass on the sink to flush my eye.

I washed with soap for a real long time and tried taking the other contact out and had milder but still stinging burning that I flushed with water. We googled and found that water doesn't work on Capicin,



the spice in peppers. I went downstairs and washed my fingers in vinegar which is supposed to be better. Milk or olive oil is also a good neutralizer.

~

August 06, 2015     practice

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We practiced our ChaCha quite a bit even though we didn't cover this in yesterdays lesson. I spent a lot of time planning the AVSA DVD. There is a lot on my plate between the now two DVDs, some web work and making a new update for First Class. Dinner tonight was the leftover hamburger and leftover buns. It came out pretty good. We ate late, almost 8 PM since we both were quite busy.

~

August 07, 2015     dance

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Organized library pics. Didn't want to exert myself since we were going out tonight for dance. We went to the party and struggled with some of what I thought we knew in the cha cha and foxtrot. Couldn't remember the Tango routines. We had a salad beforehand and then went out to Brewsters and chips with queso and a craft beer.

~

August 08, 2015     shrimp

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I had a hard time getting up today after our dance last night. I worked outdoors and helped Libbie with the Iris transplanting by rototilling all along the fence. We mixed compost into the soil and mixed up pretty good. I will eventually put fence posts in along this garden to more permanently protect from deer. For dinner tonight I went to Kroger and got a pound of shrimp and a pound of green beans which we had with Chateau St Michelle Cabernet that I brought back from Florida.

~

August 09, 2015     new intros

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Did the morning shows as usual then discovered I forgot about the squirrel we caught yesterday. He was still alive so I drove him to Kroger and let him go. The rest of the day was spent working on the new introduction section of the DVD. For dinner Libbie made her wonderful pizza and I chopped up an onion and pepper from the garden and dressed my half of it. Wow was it yummy.

~

August 10, 2015      dance  
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I spent all day on the AVSA DVD. I hate it that in other years when this one was done I was done with the DVD. Now Anne wants a second DVD which will be difficult because the walk through is split up over many sections. We decided to go out tonight to see Mr Wonderful in Pittsboro. We had dinner and beer, I had the fried flounder with slaw. It was fun dancing on a less crowded dance floor. We left early and when we got back we moved a little bit of the furniture for the carpet cleaners tomorrow.

~

August 11, 2015      carpets  
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We moved the rest of the furniture out of the bedroom and the family room right after breakfast for the carpet cleaner. He was supposed to come between 11 and 2 but didn't get here until 2:15. We had Hank the owner of Chem Dry. He was very conscientious about getting spots out and did an incredibly good job. I'm happy with how good the carpet looks. It's pretty wet so we have to camp out a while without the furniture. For dinner we went to La Cocina where I had a Yuengling and a Quesadilla La Cocina. It was too much food but I enjoyed it. It was pouring rain when we left the restaurant. This is good since it hasn't rained in a while.

~

August 12, 2015      dance  
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Talked to Anne this morning and we finally have her convinced that the second DVD is not a good idea. She was going to try to recall her article from Ruth at the magazine. Good deal since I didn't want to do the second DVD at this time. We have enough to do already. Continued working on the DVD while Libbie reviewed the resulting video files. We went to dance in the afternoon. I want help with the Foxtrot back turn. Robert was incredibly happy that Libbie told him we wanted to sign up for the Halloween showcase. We spent some time with Mitzi and gave her \$750 for 11 lessons. That's on top of the \$100 last week for sponsoring the festival. She said we had 5 lessons left on our previous bill. We're going to do Foxtrot for Halloween and so spent quite a bit of time selecting music and practicing Foxtrot routines. Stopped at Trader Joes and then Kroger on the way home. Dinner was spaghetti. I chopped up a sweet pepper and a Jalapeno for my bowl. I used a paper towel to protect my fingers. Richard sent the redo of the audio files which I stayed up late adding to the DVD. Amazingly, MS Movie Maker reduces the camera movie files by a factor 10x. I'm going to add the interview with the newbie to the DVD.

The new Davis weather station arrived late this afternoon. I'm amazed at how huge it is. It also needs assembly which I did before bed. I'll put it up tomorrow morning.

~

August 13, 2015      weather

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Carried the new Davis sensor assembly up to the roof this morning. I didn't have any problems with carrying it or mounting it. It seems to be well made although the pole I have it mounted on does not seem very stable. It flexes too much with the weight of the sensor assembly but for now I'm going to leave it. If we were in a location with more wind it may be an issue. Next I compressed the newbie interview which resulted in a file size 10x smaller and added it to DVD Style with a button to select it. Made the image and tried to burn it but discovered my new PC does not have a burner and neither does the server.

The small multi media PC I use for MP3 recording does have a burner so I transferred the image to a flash stick and burned a few DVDs for Marjorie, Anne and myself. Sent it all out priority mail but I missed the local mailman so I drove it to the post office. Tried to go to Lowes and buy a smoker but found they were sold out except for the

floor model which had a huge dent in the corner. The nice floor person looked it up on his smartphone and saw that Lowes in Garner had 2 of them. Lib and I used the Prius and went to Garner and picked up the smoker. While there we stopped at a dollar store in the same shopping center and bought a sheriffs badge for my Wyatt Earp costume and a hair band for Libbie's Janis Joplin outfit. Stopped at Smithfield BBQ on the way home and purchased chopped barbecue, slaw and hushpuppies. We ate a few of the very hot hush puppies on the way home, much later in the evening we had the BBQ on buns with slaw and baked beans from the other night. After dinner I went to work assembling the Smoker but didn't finish.

~

August 14, 2015      smoker

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The weather station is performing as expected. Very good. Finished assembling the smoker and wheeled it out to the porch. Plugged it into the house and did the sizing run for 3 hours to burn off oil. The last 45 minutes were with the hickory wood which really smoked the back porch so that I had to close the deck door slider shut. Temp control doesn't seem too bad. This will work well for us. I started mounting an electrical box on the rail post of the deck. Next chore is to drill a hole into the brick foundation wall to run the conduit. I ordered a hammer drill to assist with this and a few other holes I have to drill in the greenhouse foundation to run a garden water line and electricity to the fence charger.

After a dinner of salad and tuna we went to the 7:15 group class teaching Annie's Cha Cha. Erica was the teacher. I like her style. She was dressed as Lucille Ball and won the staff costume contest. We sort of learned Annie's Cha Cha but will paractice maybe tomorrow at Shriners and once again at her class next Friday. Ken and Anita didn't come so I was showing Anita a little about how Annie's cha Cha is done although i don't have it down pat.

~

August 15, 2015      shriners luau

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Late in the morning I went outside and started knocking a hole in the

foundation for the new outlet on the side deck for the Smoker. I bought an outlet cover that covers an outlet with a plug in use, the cover encloses the plug, wire and outlet. Hopefully the foam gasket around the cover is making an adequate seal against moisture. This went well, now i need to tie the wiring into the house which means powering down the Family Room I think. Cleaned up and rested in the afternoon by scanning some our European receipts and brochures. This stuff has been piling up waiting and now that the AVSA DVD is done it's time to tackle the pile. An email came from Bill Spencer saying that drinks were free tonight. We left at 5:45 and arrived around 6:15 and got drinks and cocktail shrimp. I had a Mai Tai, Libbie had a Margarita then we switched to beer. There were 12 people from CBS there: Gary and Janet, Terry and Harry, Ken and Anita, Nancy and Steve and Anne and Paul. It was a fun evening with a live beach band. The music was OK but mostly a lot of swing and beach music. We were able to squeeze in a few Rumbas and Cha Chas but there was no opportunity for Foxtrot although Nancy and Harry did do a Foxtrot which was strange. We stayed until 10:45 then headed home. It was a fun evening.

~

August 16, 2015      wiring

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Started wiring the new outlet I mounted on the deck yesterday. I tried to tie it into the existing outlet above the crawl space opening but the outlet screws were rusted and ended up breaking in the box. A quick trip to Home Depot and I had a new box as well as a concrete hammer drill bit for the tool that is scheduled for delivery tomorrow.

Once I got the new box the wiring went well. I even cleaned up the rats nest of TV cables in the doorway, removing the old ones and tying up the existing ones which are still in use. I finished the job by sealing the hole with hydraulic cement. The smoker plugs into the outlet which now has an in-use outlet cover, allowing the plugged in smoker to withstand weather. Libbie made a delicious pizza for dinner.

On my half once again I chopped up some sweet pepper and onions but Libbie didn't cut it exact so I ended up with one slice plain and she got the one with the good stuff which she doesn't care for.

~

August 17, 2015      blog

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I did the second application of Miracle Grow outside, this time I concentrated on the Irises and geraniums. In the morning I finally had a chance to work on my blog and finished up the Glarus and Mt Pilatus sections. Now it's to do Lauterbrunnen and then Austria. Much more to do. I really enjoy doing this. Received a call from Anne Nicholas in the evening that the DVD came and everything is OK, this will be the final copy. Dinner was spaghetti with sauce and cheese. I went shopping today looking at ribs and selected some country ribs in Walmart as an experiment on the smoker. I also rounded out some needed spices by purchasing a few. Walmart pricing on Spices is better than Kroger.

~

August 18, 2015      smoking failure

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I rubbed down some country ribs from Walmart with the Smoking Gun rub and fired up the smoker for 5 hours. The thing has a meat probe which I plugged into the meat and used it to monitor the meat temperature. The smoker worked smoothly but the meat was way too salty. I was very disappointed. The BBQ sauce though was excellent. Something is very wrong. We had the meat with green beans and a bottle of shiraz which we probably should not have had. Went to the new Brewsters Ice Cream next to Kroger. The owner was outside and gave us some 75 cent off coupons. We went over to Kroger after dinner to get some ribs because Baby backs are on sale for 2.99 a pound then did the ice cream store. The waffles are made in store daily and are quite good. I had Mint chip ice cream.

~

August 19, 2015      smoking success

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We had a good dance lesson with Robert. He liked our costume proposal for the Pacman ghosts and a big yellow pacman running around. I tried again with the country style ribs. Picked up another package in Walmart but this time I went light on the rub and finished the ribs in a container of BBQ sauce, the KC Classic BBQ sauce. They came out a lot nicer. We made Lima beans to accompany the meal.

~

August 20, 2015     scanning  
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I exchanged a few eMails with Joe about smoking meat then got busy scanning a few of Mom's albums and one of Libbies. The scans are coming out well. One album is Joe at 1 year old, the other is my Mother's and is mostly 1977, 1978 which was fun. The wireless Maverick temperature probe arrived today in the mail. It's not bad for the price and easily works into the house. I went to Kroger looking for chicken wings and ended up buying one package of thighs and one package of drumsticks.

I used the Dadgum good rub recipe and also bought a bottle of Famous Daves BBQ sauce, XXX rated adults only. I mixed this 2:1 with honey, 2 parts honey to 1 part sauce. The wings were incredibly tender and good although a little too spicy for Libbie. We went out to Brewsters Ice cream next to Kroger after dinner to make up for some of the spice. I spent some time watching people on You Now. Some of these girls are pretty sophisticated.

~

August 21, 2015     dance  
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Spent the day scanning old albums. I'm color correcting as i go and using high resolution scanning. They're really coming out good, seeing detail not easily seen with the naked eye. Good stuff. We had soup for dinner then went dancing. We won a bottle of wine in the drawings then went out to the Cary Pub after dance. It was toga night but we didn't participate although quite a few people did.

~

August 22, 2015     smoking ribs  
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Went outside with roundup and did all the weeds along the creek and around the stumps in the back. Earlier in the morning I rubbed down some ribs and left them out soaking up the rub. Put them into the smoker around 11. I did the 3-2-1 cooking which is 3 hours of smoke, 2 hours of wrapped cooking and 1 hour in BBQ sauce. they really came out good. Had them with Shiraz and lima beans. I have mastered ribs!

~

August 23, 2015      spray

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Finished up the roundup in the sprayer by walking around the front yard zapping grapevines and poison ivy. Went to repair the generator thinking it was battery related. It turns out to be the Solenoid which I ordered from Amazon for Tuesday delivery. Spent \$11 extra for the expedited shipping. Did some more scanning of the early Tom album, my early years from birth to 6 years old. Some of these I didn't know existed. Dinner was Libbie's good pizza.

~

August 24, 2015      MAAVS

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The market opened down 1000 this morning and finished the day down 600. Wow, what a bloodbath. I'm too afraid to look at my accounts to see what happened. I'll leave it alone for a while. I spent a lot of time doing MAAVS stuff today from finding pics for Brenda to loading the new logo onto the website and adding the March Memo to the website, scanned the booklet covers then also uploaded the registration form for the convention. I also made the hotel reservations and filled out the online registration form. For dinner we had the leftover ribs from Saturday night. They are as yummy as ever.

~

August 25, 2015      ipad

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Trimmed the bushes next to the front sidewalk and also down at the beginning of the driveway. Now I want to take the cart around and do a stick pickup but not today. I got all hot and sweaty so I did inside stuff today. I got the new computer, the Dell, compiling for the iPad. This took a bit since certificates needed to be set up. Did a grocery run and wanted Country ribs in Kroger but they didn't have any I could find. Will try Walmart next. Dinner was spaghetti with cheese sprinkled on top.

~



August 26, 2015      dance

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Took the cart out this morning and picked up sticks around the front yard and got a few full cart fulls of branches. it's mostly just a cursory pickup getting the biggest and most obvious stuff. We had a good dance lesson with Robert concentrating on parts of our Foxtrot routine and adding a pivot turn to the mix. I discovered an interesting family on YouNow. Three teenage girls and their mom with a fitness pole in their house. It was fun watching the girls and then Mom on the pole. There were lots of comments about that being inappropriate but it's all in the mind of the viewer. The Mom even explained her girls are not doing anything sexual, it's just fun and good exercise. Libbie made pasta and tuna aka tuna noodle casserole for dinner.

~

August 27, 2015      smoked chicken

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Smoked some chicken today for dinner. Everything was running behind schedule but it came out OK anyway. I spent a total of 3.5 hours cooking time, 2 hours in smoke and the rest in a pan of sauce. Did not use the hot sauce this time but I will for the studio cooking tomorrow.

Robert said he likes hot ribs. After the chicken we went out to Brewsters for ice cream. There were a few customers outside at a table a beautiful Porsche Red Targa convertible in front of the place. It sure looked nice. The pole dancers were live again. I showed them to Libbie. Their Mom was even in the broadcast and said a few words.

~

August 28, 2015      ribs

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After breakfast I started rubbing the ribs at 8:30 and then into the smoker at 10:30. I'm doing both a rack of baby backs and 7 of the country ribs. I smoked the ribs for 3 hours then wrapped the baby backs and put the country ribs into 2 pans, one with KC Classic sauce and the second with the XXX adults only sauce. The baby backs came out a little drier than I wanted and the country ribs were perfect but not

as hot as the first time which was last week. We went over to the studio at 6:45 PM for the 7 PM party. I had to enter the ballroom kitchen wearing my Rib University apron. Unfortunately we did not win the cook off. It was a fun night anyway but we left early after the drawings because we leave in the morning for California.

~

August 29, 2015      flying

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After breakfast we loaded the car and drove to the airport parking. All went well, we took the park and ride shuttle and had TSA Pre which should have been easy for check in but my digital SLR tripped up the x-ray person and I had to get a hand inspection which took a while.

We had a very nice attractive lady from Cisco between us on the flight.

She was going to Las Vegas for a conference. She talked about her her kids, married early and then divorced and married again. She was pretty but Libbie said she talked too much. We had an Einstein bagel with cream cheese at the Denver airport then boarded the flight to Orange County. We scored with the exit row, yes! I started reading the Harper Lee book, Go Set a Watchmen, and am really enjoying it.

Strangely I finished Part 1 and started Part 2. The strange part is what is Part 1, Part 2, etc all about? The story doesn't seem to change course or era or shift in any discernible way. Anyway, I'm enjoying it. Joe and Paige picked us up at the airport. We arrived 30 minutes early and then stopped at Cafe Rio on the way home and picked up \$40 worth of pork salads which were a tortilla, beans, cheese and lettuce with a salad dressing topping. We had it much later for dinner and it was yummy. Would love to eat more beans and lettuce like this. I was really tired after dinner and laid down eventually passing out sound asleep.

~

August 30, 2015      Huntington Beach Day 1

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Woke up pretty early this morning because we're in Calif but our body is still on East Coast rhythms. I had a bowl of raisin bran crunch for breakfast which was good but I found out afterwards it was laden with sugar, 19 grams compared to shredded wheat which is 0.

Had a nice

relaxing day catching up on my travel blog from Europe. In the late afternoon we picked up some subs for a picnic at the library where there was a big band playing Gershwin, Sousa, Bernstein, etc. We sat in the shade with Christa's cousin Pam and her grandchild. Libbie and I split a Turkey, Bacon and Avocado sub. The sub shop was closing but we got our order in after closing and they filled it. The bill was \$31.

~

August 31, 2015      More catch up

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Spent more of today catching up on the travel blog. it's slow going but I'm determined to finish. We went to the Long Beach Aquarium today which was a lot of fun. Didn't bring lunch so we had the leftover subs from yesterday for lunch. This made me pretty tired. I posted a pic of Libbie reading to Paige as well as some pics from the aquarium. Over 40 people like the pic on Facebook. We bought \$48 worth of groceries in Albertsons which gave us a nice chicken dinner grilled which Joe did. It was chicken, black beans and beer for dinner. Appetizer was sausage and some veggies with ranch dressing or hickory BBQ.

~

September 01, 2015      Corona

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Paige was a little tired this morning after breakfast. We went to the beach at Corona Del Mar and walked along the cliffs then down the stairs to the rock formations on the beach. We spent a few hours walking and enjoying the sea breeze and sunshine. Came back and had ham and cheese sandwiches for lunch. I then continued working on the travel blog, Travels by Tom.

When Christa came home we went out to the downtown festival night where Main Street is closed off and a Farmers Market is running. We took a short walk out onto the pier then went to the HB Brewery for dinner. We all ordered the do it yourself Tacos which is 3 Tacos. I had pork carnita, carni asata and fish as the base for mine. Put some lettuce, cheese, sour cream and jalapenos on it. I drank a brown beer along with the dinner. They were featuring two beers: brown and blonde along with a host of others. We walked

up Main after dinner and listened to some of the musicians along the way. Libbie bought a tied dye skirt for dancing that a vendor had on his racks.

This afternoon Craig stopped by to visit. He had his brother Gary and Gary's Son Kevin with them. Gary lives outside of Seattle and came down for a visit.

~

September 02, 2015      splash park

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After breakfast we went to a Splash Park in Garden Grove. Admission was \$2 each for adults. We met neighbor Shelly and daughter Charley there.

Shelley is a tattooed lady but very nice. Paige doesn't like splashing water, just still water and puddles. On the way back we had Vietnamese sandwiches from a drive through. They were delicious. It was spiced pork and cucumber on a toasted baguette. In a bag there were pickled carrots and pickled Jalapenos to put on the sandwich.

It was delicious. Paige cried almost all afternoon. She's getting sick, a cold or sniffles. She finally settle down when Christa came home.

Joe made Tiritip steak on the grill on Hawaiian rolls with cheese.

This was yummy. We accompanied it with beer. After dinner we took a walk to the school down the street and watched Paige while Joe and Christa played wall ball with tennis rackets. During the afternoon I set up the sub-domain ls.avsa.org for the license server and added an A record to the DNS so that when you access it, the request goes to 204.209.44.220

~

September 03, 2015      Mellow Day

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I went back to updating the travel blog. It was great having this block of time to do all this writing. I'm still not sure why I'm doing it but it has been a lot of fun. For lunch we had the leftover tri-tip on bread. It is still as yummy as ever. I'll have to seek it out.

I tried Pandora and found that the ads are blocked by Adblock Plus.

It's pretty nice.

Sometime during the afternoon Paige got hurt. She got into the pantry and a large can of beans fell on her toe causing it to bleed. She screamed for quite some time while Libbie and Joe

washed her toe and applied pressure to stop the bleeding. In less than half an hour she was back to her playful self.

We went to Debbie's

house for a Lapworth family party. The menu was pizza and other things with beer, etc. It was a nice time with the Lapworths.

~

September 04, 2015      another

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I slept until 6:45 which is unusual. Paige woke up very happy this morning.

Anne announced the DVD is now ready and was looking for suggestions for next year. Not sure what to do since DVDs are not mainstream anymore, however the conversation from the rest of the library group was entertaining. The amount of discussion was amazing and pretty educational. I think we should try to put some of the older videos on the YouTube pay channel. Libbie and I didn't do anything all day which was relaxing and amazing. For lunch we had ham and cheese sandwiches and for dinner Joe made delicious hamburgers and sausage hors d'oeuvres which we had with a beer. Joe uploaded several thousand images onto Picassa and configured his Chromecast device to show the pictures as a slide show.

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September 05, 2015      Saturday

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I'm starting to feel the effects of a cold. It's too bad but I seem to be catching Libbie's cold and have a sore throat. I took some Vitamin C today and I will continue to take it all week. It's supposed to help shorten the after effects of a cold. We shall see. Once again I spent a lot of the day updating the European trip blog. I'm now down to the final day in the Wachau Valley where I will end it. Christa went out to get her hair done and wants a family picture, probably tomorrow. Paige is pretty busy today, we played with her all day. For dinner we ordered Thai from the little Gulf Thai place. I had Chicken Pad Thai as well as Joe and Libbie. Christa had Chicken Su sui or something like that. We had it accompanied by a beer.

~

September 06, 2015     swing

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I finished the European trip blog today. Hope we go back soon, looking back it looked like so much fun. Joe's coffee maker failed this morning so we used the Keurig machine. It still tastes like instant to me. I have no more cold symptoms but am very lethargic. I vegetated most of the day. We had the leftover Pad Thai for lunch and then went to Central Park for the afternoon performance. We did a photo session under the trees while in the Park for a family portrait then participated in the swing lesson being offered. It was a little different, turn right, turn left then rock step. We danced a few numbers with the band throughout the evening. On the way home we stopped at La Capilla. I had a Blue Moon and a Shrimp Fajita which was way too much food. Later in the evening I helped Christa set up the new coffee maker she bought at Costco and ran a pot of hot water through it before bed.

~

September 07, 2015     picnic

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Busy start to the day. I updated the MAAVS website with commercial vendors attending the convention, communicated with the LSAVC folks about adding the newsletter to their website then did the check in to Southwest at 7:45 for our Denver flight tomorrow morning. We got B20 and B21 but it was TSA Pre which was pretty cool.

We took a walk on the beach in Huntington Beach with Christa and Paige while Joe went off on his own to ride his bike, I got a pretty good sunburn, didn't expect it. We then went to Whittier for the Lapworth Labor Day picnic. It was almost 100 in Whittier which was surprising since it wasn't that hot in HB. Craig made Tortillas with chicken and beans, sour cream and lots of fixins. It was quite good. Packed up our suitcases when we came back ready for an early morning takeoff.

~

September 08, 2015     travel

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Joe was up early working in the kitchen. Christa came down to say goodbye

then we headed out the door at 6 AM. We were TSA Pre and had no trouble at all at John Wayne, we breezed through. The flight was full but I scored an exit row seat. Libbie was in the same row but across the aisle in a seat that was not in a wide row. We got in early in Denver but landed in Terminal C. Had to take the train all the way past A & B to get our baggage then the shuttle to the rental car lot. We got a Red Toyota Corolla with quite a few miles on it but it was fine. We had to wait since all they had ready was SUVs. IT took a while to get through Denver traffic, at one place the Interstate narrowed to 1 lane which was a long bottleneck. Eventually we hit the Open road and drove through Wyoming for the first time ever. Speed Limit was 80 which was unreal but not terribly different from 130 km/hr in Austria. Found our B&B in Keystone then went out to dinner in Hill City. We ended up in the Alpine Inn which has Filet Mignon for 9.95 which includes baked potato and salad. We had a 1/2 litre of very nice house Cabernet and enjoyed our dinner. The place was recommended by our hosts Lesley and Ron. The road to Hill City as well as the road to Keystone is covered with wandering deer.

~

September 09, 2015      Mt Rushmore

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Our B&B served a delicious cinnamon pear as a starter then a quiche bowl and a side of fresh fruit. Both were outstanding although I'm not sure I liked chicken in my quiche. It also had egg, cheese and bacon.

A toast with tomato and cheese was also on the side. The coffee was a little weak. We could not get WiFi this morning so ended up driving down to Keystone to use the free public WiFi in the street which was amazing. It was quite good and allowed us to get our mail. Next we took our stuff and went over to Mt Rushmore. Hiked the Presidential Trail and admired the sculpture, visited the sculptors studio and watched the movie in the visitors center. It was all interesting although I'm not sure I would return. Been there, done that. We attempted a drive into Custer Park but turned around after 5 miles of twisty turns driving. Loved the tunnels that have views right out to Rushmore.

Such a treat. I was tired so we bailed and drove into Hill City where we tasted wines by Prairie City Winery. They were not worth the price so we ended up in the city at a food market where we bought Calif wine as well as crackers and cheese. It was a very nice day.

When we got back the WiFi was working. We had the wine and cheese with crackers on the porch and then went out to dinner at the Himalayan

indian Restaurant. When we went inside the smell was heavenly, we smelled curry or spices. I wanted Briyani but the waiter suggested chicken Tika Masala which was delicious. It's chunks of chicken with an Orange Curry sauce along with Basmati rice. We shared the entre which was more than enough food. We had water to accompany. Quite nice. We told our neighbors from England, Peter and Jane, about the restaurant. They were interested.

~

September 10, 2015      Crazy Horse

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We had a huge breakfast of a tapioca cup to start followed by a plate with eggs, kielbasi, pancakes and syrup. I can't keep eating huge breakfasts like this. It started out as a cloudy day but the sun came out later. The Crazy Horse monument was huge. Rushmore would fit into the face of Crazy Horse. We did the bus tour which was \$4 each and well worth it, we went to the base of the monument. There were only 4 people on our school bus. The driver was pretty friendly and knowledgeable. A great guy. The Indian Museum was fantastic and huge, it far exceeded expectations and was well worth it. I enjoyed the artifacts of all the tribes, the museum rooms seemed to go on forever. We had an Indian Taco for lunch in the very nice cafe where our table had a beautiful view of the Crazy Horse monument. Our server was a retired guy who lives out of an RV and will be going to TX next to help Amazon Christmas deliveries. Interesting life these retired folks carve out for themselves. When we got back we had wine and cheese on the deck but I knocked the bottle over which dumped Libbie's glass of wine all over the place including on her white jacket. What a mess I cleaned up while she cleaned her jacket. For dinner we went into Keystone and had Pizza and beer at an efficiently run family restaurant. The wait staff was small and running ragged, they were short handed. We had a nice fresh mushroom pizza with a Moose Drool beer.

~

September 11, 2015      Drive to Denver

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We had the B&B breakfast of baked oatmeal and a fruit plate. The oatmeal had pieces of Apple in the baked brick of oatmeal. It was quite good. We packed our bags to go and said our goodbys. We drove to



Custer State Park and paid the \$15 admission. The needles rock formation exceeded my expectation with a tunnel cut in the rock and lots of cathedral spires surrounding it. There was a climber climbing the needle when we were there. Also a tourist van of ladies from Adventure tours. We continued the drive through the park stopping at many overlooks before getting on the wildlife loop. Our wildlife total was a coyote, a herd of antelope, some elk, a herd of burros and then a huge herd of buffalo. On our way out there were even some standalone bull buffalos, one right next to the road grazing. He was huge as my car. We stopped for lunch in Hot Springs at a DQ where we had chicken wraps. The Wyoming prairie is beautiful and is an 80 mph road but hardly any cell signal. The traffic was terrible from Fort Collins to Denver, it was stop and go on the Interstate. On the Denver outskirts we chose to take the toll road which was excellent and went right near our hotel. The Holiday Inn was a beautiful new hotel. We went next door to gas up the car at 7-11 and then on the other side of the hotel to an Italian restaurant named DiCicio. It's family owned and has old world charm. The inside is like an opera house with multi level box type seats. We were downstairs. We had a bottle of the house Cabernet which was by Canyon Road for \$25. I had the sausage Canneloni which also had an individual sausage. It was very good. Libbie had the eggplant Parmesan. We both ordered a salad with the meal and some kind of heavy bread was served which reminded me of sourdough. Went back to our Denver airport Holiday Inn stuffed. I'm glad it was close by. I have to get up at 4:15 AM so I went to bed at 9 PM. It was a good day.

~

September 12, 2015      Flying Home

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Got up at 4:15 AM, took a shower and did bathroom things then packed all and left Libbie in bed after kissing her good by. Returned the rental car and rode the shuttle to the terminal. TSA went well, I was through check in, TSA and the train to the C concourse in 36 minutes which isn't bad. This was my first time using the texted boarding pass which worked. Once at concourse C I stopped at Einstein Bagel and ordered a Cinnamon Raisin with Cream Cheese and a coffee and ate it at the gate. Denver has free Wifi so I worked on this journal at the gate until boarding time. I hit the lottery and got the exit row and the seat with no seat in front of me. I was able to stretch out a good 4 or 5 feet in front of me. This is a 2 legged flight, one to Houston

and then Houston to Raleigh. On the second leg once we got over Pensacola, FL the air became unstable, very cloudy and the plane rocked back and forth for a very rough flight. Surprisingly it was smoother near landing when we were cruising at 13,000 feet about 20 miles from the airport. I was glad for that. My bag was first on the carousel which was a first then the Park N Ride took me to my car first which was also a first. What a great travel experience except for the rough flight which can't be helped. Storms are predicted for Raleigh this afternoon as a cold front arrives. Too bad I was flying in it.

The house really smells moldy. I set up the fan up for 100% exhaust.

I need to do something more permanent. May have to purchase a second 20 inch fan and suspend it in the back of the crawl blowing towards the door.

Went to Kroger for milk and fruit. Bought Lloyds

Pork BBQ and some buns. Had BBQ on a bun for dinner. The glasses from our SD wine tasting came back in the suitcase in one piece.

~

September 13, 2015      trip advisor

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Did some catchup on files, my travel blog and general house keeping. Everything is going well. Did some reviews for trip advisor then reviewed some of the entries on BP. Dinner once again was a hamburger which was nice.

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September 14, 2015      IRKit

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Worked with the irKit that came yestrday. This time I used the IOS software to set it up and was successful. Then I used Curl to read the latest IR command which was also sucessful. Hamburger on a bun for dinenr along with Asian Sesame salad. Updated the Field of Dreams blog to add the IRKit to the mix. This will serve as my personal documentation

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September 15, 2015      Chili

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I cut into the wall above the power box to mount a timer I picked up in Home Depot. It's a 220 volt 40 amp timer and will be used for the septic pump. This was old geezer day at Kroger so I went and bought the ingredients for Chili featured on Lifehacker. it's pretty good and easy to make. Chili with a few bread slices from hamburger buns was dinner. Had a good check up with a new hygienist, Deena and chatted with Dr Paul. I'm convinced he doesn;t work their anymore, just walks around and visits. The 6T drive from NewEgg arrived today. I hooked it up and began transferring files over to it. It's a long slow process, but it's almost 5 T of data.

~

September 16, 2015      Foxtrot

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Worked on the FC4A updates this morning. As usual it took a lot of learning to do it but I did a test run which was successful so I went and did the real thing and put it out there. I also painted the board for the hole over the electrical box in the garage. The board will mount a timer which will tap into the wall cables going to the spetic and the power box. Dinner was beans and a hamburger.

I had a dance

lesson with Melanie. She had to ad lib quite a bit since she wasn't sure what we were doing. I feel it was useful though as a review of Foxtrot. I enjoyed it anyway, she's a lightweight dancer easy to move around.

~

September 17, 2015

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Packed up the old siding into the trailer and 2 of the bags of shingles and took it all down to the dump. Two Hispanic guys helped me unload.

The biggest part of the help was they picked up the two bags of shingles and tossed them in the dumpster. What a big help. The Timer appears to be doing it's thing on the septic pump. This was a project I really wanted done and it worked out so well. Libbie is thinking of bringing 2 of her Mothers old albums home. I'm sure I can handle it with all the MAAVS stuff I have to do. Dinner was a hamburger on a bun with ketchup, this was the last of the hamburger package but

I still have an unopened package of burgers I bought Tuesday. I also have some chicken breast tenders I want to use.

~

September 18, 2015      wood

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This was a lazy day, I didn't accomplish much. Did some reading of non technical things then marked the wall behind the TV to mount the TV in the corner. I don't have any pieces of wood to support the 2x12 so I went to Home Depot and picked up a fairly clear 2x4. I also took a look at Hardwood Flooring. The only thing they have in stock is prefinished flooring. The lady explained the microgrooves help to keep dirt off the floor surface, thus protecting the finish. Sounds like marketing to me. Dinner was chicken with basil pesto and Mozzarella. This came out incredibly good and was delicious. I made it in a disposable aluminum pan which made cleanup easy.

~

September 19, 2015      paint problems

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Outdoor work today. Mowed all the lawns and then cut the 2x4s for the TV corner bracket. While the chicken cooked for dinner I painted the 2x4s white. One small problem is that the lid is too rusted to go back onto an almost full can of paint. Will see if there is a solution in Home Depot. Dinner was the basil chicken I oven baked. It was quite good but light on cheese compared to last night's chicken. During dinner I watched Gigante Sabada, It's their last show and ran over for 26 minutes saying goodbye to everybody. They had the usual collection of gorgeous babes in slinky form fitting clothes. I'm going to miss this show. I watched it all the way from 8 till 11:26 and also recorded it.

~

September 20, 2015      tree cut

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Mounted the supports onto the wall behind the TV using 3 inch wood screws. This will make it easier to remove if I ever have to. I tied a

mason string across the supports and traced the angles for the 2x12 piece. I want to transfer this to a piece of cardboard before making the real cut.

I went out and cut down the dead tree in our coral bell azaleas. It was still pretty solid and heavy to move. It fell onto the white azaleas across the driveway which is not what I wanted.

I moved all the logs off the driveway and stacked them down by the creek. Libbie suggested taking them to the street but I would have to cut them up into smaller sizes so I didn't. The Chain saw needs a new chain. Came back in and lay down for over an hour. This wore me down and I only moved half the tree. I'll do the rest tomorrow. For dinner i made a couple of hamburgers. I used smoking gun sauce on the first but it was weak so I used plain ketchup on the second. Watched a little of the Emmys this evening but I wasn't very into it.

The dresses were modest and I never saw any of the shows nominated.

~

September 21, 2015      tree cutting

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Put a new chain on the saw and worked outside for several hours today.

Cut the rest of the dead tree up from yesterday and attempted a repair on the Azalea that it fell on. I also removed the dangling old spotlight from the pine tree next to the driveway. The wires tested live so I may hook an LED spotlight up to it or possibly a few trees over.

I then went down to the front of the front yard and sliced up the two dead trees laying there and hauled them away and did a little trimming on the Maple tree. This completely wore me down, took a shower and lay on the bed a while reading on the laptop and cruising BP and YouNow. Dinner tonight was hamburgers off the grill. Earlier for lunch I had the rest of the Asian salad mix.

~

September 22, 2015      welcome home

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Libbie got on a plane at 7:25 this morning coming home. I watched GMA then took inventory and went grocery shopping. I just barely got back when I noticed her plane was early. I started out and got a text from her that she landed. It was good timing that she texted me again to come get her just as I got off the I-40 exit. I went straight to

the terminal and picked her up.. Once home we had a BLT with the fixings I picked up this morning. After lunch I finished scanning my Mother's album. That's another one in the digital vault. I still have lots more but Libbie brought me 2 albums from her Mother's shelf that I am going to scan. One is really falling apart. Took a little nap where I essentially passed out but woke in time to start dinner. I made chicken with Basil pesto, Roma tomatoes and mozzarella cheese in the oven. I served it with Ravenwood Zin which I bought for her coming home.

~

September 23, 2015      dance lesson

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Spent the morning making a template for the corner TV bracket then cutting the 2x12 and sanding it to fit. It took several tries to get it to fit properly. Tacked it in place then used the drill and 3 inch deck screws to permanently fix it to the wall brackets. Unfortunately I was short by 3 screws. Will do a Lowes trip after dinner.

We

had an excellent dance lesson with Robert. We taped the whole choreography, it's pretty cool, especially the grapevine where we both dance in parallel. It's going to be fun!!! Stopped into Kroger on the way home to get Libbie's prescription as well as some carrots. She wanted baby carrots for snacking, I tried them but like the long ones better since they're easier to handle. Tonight Turandot was live with James Morris. I enjoyed it but missed the first part since we went to Lowes and picked up the screws for the TV corner support. We also made our bulb selections for Fall planting and bought around \$100 worth of daffodils and crocus bulbs. Dinner was spaghetti with the leftover chicken from yesterday.

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September 24, 2015      shelf

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Screwed the bracket down in the morning then cut a sheet of plywood for the shelf. Painted it with the wall white paint and let it dry in the garage overnight. Dinner was chicken Basil with Mozarella that I made. It's such a simple and delicious meal.

~

September 25, 2015     dance

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Mounted the shelf today. It went very well and is quite solid. We practiced our holiday routine of Foxtrot then went to Big Lots and got some sheets for less than \$10 for the ghost costumes. We had the leftover chicken basil each having a small piece. My Mother's scrapbook has been scanned freeing up the scanner but I don't have Libbie's book she wants scanned. We left for dance tonight. It was a small crowd and Robert's birthday. It was fun seeing most of the folks again. We went out to the pub after dinner to celebrate Robert's birthday and came home around 11:30 PM. We had chicken Wings and 1.5 beers while at the pub.

~

September 26, 2015     dinner

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Made ribs in the Smoker today out in the rain. We got almost 2 inches yesterday and almost one inch today. All went well with the smoker. Started rubbing them at 10, turned the smoker on at noon then put the ribs in at 12:15. Loaded wood chips into it hourly and also mopped down the ribs hourly until it was time to wrap them in foil for 2 hours. The last hour they cooked with a glaze over them. The ribs were delicious, moist and tender and meaty. We had Butternut squash and chateau St Michelle Cabernet with the wine topped off by a Key Lime yogurt. It was all good. I drilled the hole in the TV shelf today and painted it. Will try to move the amplifier and the DVR up to the shelf. Don't think they will fit together but it's worth a shot.

~

September 27, 2015     TV

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After the CBS this Morning Show I started working on the TV again. Had to make a run out to Lowes and then Home Depot for speaker wire to make the leads longer. I also picked up an Air Conditioner heavy duty extension cord to run power up to the shelf. Moved the amplified

and DVR to the shelf then mounted the TV using bolts and nuts on the 2x12 instead of the self tapping screws they provided. The TV is supported quite well up there, I am surprised at how stable it is. I'm thinking now that maybe I should have mounted it higher. Also, the DVR is peaking out above the TV. I like it this way since I can see the lights on the box. The center speaker however is visible above the TV. I may move this down to behind the TV below the shelf. I also want to install a lower shelf for the IR WiFi bridge and IR repeater.

This also will need a power strip. While I worked on the TV Libbie took the pantry apart and cleaned it out, discarding unused things and scrubbing mold. I removed the folding doors for her which will probably get a coat of poly urethane. Dinner was the Libbie traditional pizza from scratch. Yum!

~

September 28, 2015      scanning

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I started scanning the second of Libbie's albums. This one is in worse shape but it's easier to scan because it has screws that allow the book to be disassembled and the pages to be individually removed for scanning.

This eases the scanning process. I also hooked up the older scanner because it is flatter and has no control panel edges that are higher than the glass. Dinner was my homemade chili. I made it this time with corn and the beans. I really liked it. Libbie made some corn bread to go along with it. I had to buy more corn bread flour because the other stuff was hard as a rock. Libbie took apart the pantry closet and is cleaning it totally with borax. She is also going to put polyurethane on the doors.

~

September 29, 2015      SQL problems

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I wanted to keep scanning albums today but a Facebook posting from several people on AV Nerds complained about the updates crashing in the Android program. I fired up the debug mode in B4A and found that mine crashed once in a while as well. The problem was not closing a cursor, it kept creating new ones in a for next loop. The result was an out of memory error after several hundred cursors were created. I closed the cursor and put the new version which is 2.14 onto Google Play.



All people who had trouble reported that the update was successful.  
Dinner was rigatoni with the imported pork sausage, wine and tomato  
sauce which is very good.

~

September 30, 2015      foxtrot

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I went back to the second of Libbie's albums and finished scanning it.

Now I need to label the people in the pictures. Next I started reviewing  
our Foxtrot routine for the showcase we're doing on Halloween.

We went early to dance and practiced for 25 minutes in the studio before  
our lesson. We had a great lesson, roughly outlining what we are  
going to be doing. It's hard dancing with Libbie, she doesn't follow  
well. I probably am not a great dancer either. After our lesson  
we met with Anne Cain about renewing our listing for the land. We left  
there and went home for a while before going out at 6:30 for dinner  
at La Cocina. We thought the last Wednesday was a Mariachi band but  
there wasn't any band. I ordered a Bell and Howell Projector from  
Florida today. I'm going to convert it into a telecine machine which  
converts 8mm films to digital. At La Cocina I had a Yuengling and the  
Queasadilla La Cocina which was very good.

~

October 01, 2015      Oct 1

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The new month is bringing a possible hurricane this weekend, Juaquin.

It's lightly raining now but is supposed to intensify. We took the  
old media cabinet to Goodwill as well as a luggage scale and a wine  
bottle holder. It's great to clean the house and get rid of some of  
these items. I have so much more upstairs to dispose of. We brought  
this stuff to Goodwill before the rain started. I cleaned off the  
table top in my office, putting the wallbox into a plastic tub for  
work later. I'm getting ready for the projector I ordered that will  
need work. Dinner tonight was a tuna sandwich, then we went out to the  
Elks where the Tune Swingers were playing. They are a 21 piece big  
band. The room was small so they were loud but it was enjoyable, we  
did some more Foxtrot stuff. Attendance was light. it was pretty  
rainy on the way back.

~

October 02, 2015

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It's a rainy day outside but no wind. We ended up with 2 inches. Libbie and I went to Wyatt Quarles to get potting soil. We stopped in at AgriSupply and picked up a 20 inch fan for under the house which I'm going to hang. On the way back the rain intensified so we decided not to do the Farmers market and took Tryon Rd home instead. The rain was pretty intense but it was a relief going slower instead of being on I-40. I made a pot of chili which we had for dinner before the dance party. Attendance was light tonight in the heavy rain but we had fun practicing our Foxtrot routine and also did some cha cha. Anne told me the name of the cha cha with the parallel turn is a paseo. Earlier in the evening Anne sent our new listing over to be signed. We had to sign again at the studio since I signed in too many places online. After dance we went out to Brewsters Tavern where we ordered a Quesadilla and 1.5 beers.

~

October 03, 2015      trovatore

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The projector came yesterday, the box was in bad shape. I opened it this morning and found the bulb was broken and a wheel had broke off it's shaft. The drive mechanism however is in good shape and works. I will be able to convert it to an 8mm digitizer better known as a telecine converter. I talked with both Arlene and Vicki today. Arlene about Rich's retirement. She was on the way to a Broadway play. I talked to Vicki about Bob's back surgery. He isn't doing so well with leg numbness and walking issues. We went to Trovatore today at 1 in Crossroads. There was no wind so we were OK with the HD recpetion. The Opera was fantastic. Netrebko, Delora and Hvorstovsky were the stars of the show. It was so great to hear and wonderfully sung. What a dleightful afternoon. At home we had ribs with butternut squash along with a bottle of Cabernet Sauvignon. Dessert was yogurt. I researched white LEDs. I don't have any but Home Depot sells them as Halogen bulb replacements. I'll pick it up tomorrow in HD.

~

October 04, 2015     fan

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CBS Sunday morning was not run today due to NFL football which was a bummer.

I hate NFL crap. I used the extra time to go to Home Depot and get the LED. This is a nice light bulb. I hooked it up to a 12 VAC transformer and it's pretty bright. It will work well. I went under the house and hung the fan on chains and plugged it into an extension cord. I'll let it run for a while. I would like it to go intermittently possibly 5 minutes every 30 minutes. This would be 48 times per day. This may be a job for a Raspberry Pi running open sprinkler.

The projector work continues. I removed the heat shield and permanently mounted the 12 VAC transformer for the LED. I also wired in the LED and took the lens apart, removing the glass and keeping the housing.

Libbie

made her excellent pizza for dinner tonight. I had to make a Kroger run today to get my blood pressure medicine. It auto renews on the first of the month.

~

October 05, 2015     fan under the house

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The sun is out today which means some outdoor activities. I hung the fan under the house. This was a big deal. I want to get a second fan and mount it on the other side then run both of them off the timer.

Dinner tonight was Rigatoni with tomato and pork sausage, the imported bottled stuff from Kroger. We negotiated the land today. The buyer started with \$300k. We countered at \$340 and settled for \$320.

Not what we were expecting but at least it's sold. Now we have to clean out the shed and the property.

~

October 06, 2015     fan 2

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Went to Nothern Tool looking for a fan and ended up at AgriSupply where i picked up another fan, some chain and screw in hooks for under the house. Went under the house and hung this fan and used the existing outlet which is on a timer. The fan hangs so it blows straight up. I need to fix this so it is more horizontal

~

October 07, 2015      dance

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Dug in the back yard and located the sewer pipe underground. I also made the repairs to the broken pipe sewer pipe. Tomorrow I'll make a new lid. Unfortunately the water level is not going down when I turn the pump on. It seems to be clogged somewhere in the septic line. I hooked a pipe to the pump outlet and tested that it pumps very well into the creek. It just won't pump up the hill probably because it's clogged somewhere. We had a good foxtrot lesson with Robert. We went over and over the opening until we got it right. He suggested we alternate days next week. We changed the schedule to Tuesday and Thursday. For dinner I made chicken fillets covered with pesto, roma tomatoes and mozzarella cheese. We had a bottle of Shiraz to complement the meal.

~

October 08, 2015      digging

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Built the new septic lid this morning then dug out the rest of the 2 inch septic line. Cut it open with the Sawzall and found the blockage is in the upper section of the pipe, sewage flows OK from the pump to this point which is about 50 feet up from the pump. Poured some draino down the pipe to try to clear it and then Libbie and I carried 2 pails of water up the hill and poured it down the line as well. I think it trickles out, she thinks differently. Did not put the y fitting in tonight. For dinner I made chicken filets with pesto and slices of Roma covered with Mozzarella. We had a bottle of Shiraz to complement the meal. Late in the afternoon we picked up the check from Annes real estate office and signed a form. Tonight was the season opener of Tanhauser. I love that opera. Hopefully I got it recorded in my office on the small multimedia computer.

~

October 09, 2015      sewers

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I went outside and put the y fitting into the spetic line. Filled the hole with dirt and tamped it down, put the cap on the new cleanout pipe sticking out of the ground. I fired up the chain saw and cleared the 3 trees that were down n the path and then popped th lid on the distro box at the top of the hill. Turned the power onto the pump and waited. No joy! The water was shooting out of the cap but not making it to the top of the hill. Too bad. For lunch we had the leftover chicken from last night which was the last of the 3 filets. Earlier today I went out and deposited the DD check from Jessie and stopped by Walgreens and got a flu shot. It took longer than necessary but I got it done. We are going to Esquires tonight which will be the first of the new season. Woo Hoo.

At Esquires the crowd was smaller than usual. The band was excellent, it was a great ballroom mix of music.

I ate too much food, the carving station with the good horseradish was back. Janet and Gary were nice and chose to give up their table to come sit with us. That was nice. We left at 10 to get ready for our trip tomorrow.

~

October 10, 2015      wedding

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We left home at 7 and parked in the Park and Relax which got us to the airport on time as scheduled. Our plane left at 9 and was a smooth ride into Baltimore where we had a bacon, egg and cheese biscuit in the terminal before our PVD flight. It was a clear day but a little turbulent as we looked down at NYC. The flight was a little early but we didn't have baggage so we were off in good time and over to the rental car kiosk. We got a white Dodge Avenger which I didn't like but it did us well. We stopped into George And Mary's at the nursing home before going back to the Ramada and change into our wedding clothes.

The wedding was at the Glen and was very elegant with all the West Point cadets. There were many choices of hand passed hors-d' uvres as well as plenty of wine. We had a delicious dinner of Salmon and Risotto and then did quite a bit of dancing of Rumba, cha cha and swing. We're getting good at that. I danced with Laura and Freddie doing a 2 step swing which was fun. We stayed until the end which was nice.

~

October 11, 2015

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This morning we had coffee and a bagel in the Ramada restaurant then went to Bill and Barbs for a breakfast brunch which they had catered.

It was very nice and fun to see everyone. We went over to the nursing home and had lunch with George and Mary which was cod fish, baked potato and corn followed by an awful blueberry pie dessert. We had a glass of Merlot before lunch. While George and Mary did their bathroom break we were able to get the scrapbooks back into their place on the shelf. We also arranged for the pizza from Famous Pizza about a mile from the place. We ordered 2 plain, one mushroom and pepperoni, one veggie, one mushroom and one pepperoni. They were passable but not exactly NY Pizza. Bill and Mary supplied the beer, we paid \$81 for 6 pizzas with tip. We got home in the evening around 7:30 with plenty of time to pack for our return trip tomorrow. It was a nice day in RI, the temps were cooperative around 70 degrees and clear skies.

~

October 12, 2015      fly home

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We got up at 4:15 with a 4:45 takeoff time. Picked up gas at a 24 hour station next to the rental car return place. There was an attendant at the returns line for Enterprise, he was able to get our numbers and print a receipt and we were off to the terminal and TSA screening.

We had to get our boarding passes printed by Southwest, fortunately we were TSA Pre which was excellent. We sailed thorough and stopped at Dunkin Donuts for coffee and a blueberry donut. The flights were on time and smooth, the shuttle was waiting for us at the airport.

We were able to get home by 11:30. Of course the house stunk from the crawl space which still needs help. I need to get back to working on the downstairs. No mail today since it's Columbus Day. For dinner tonight I picked up premade hamburgers from Kroger which we put into wheat hamburger buns and had with baked beans.

~

October 13, 2015      dance again

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I was groggy yesterday from the trip but today I'm back in gear. I mounted

the socket under the house for the fan and tied up the first fan with twine so it did not rotate while hanging on the chains. It now aims straight ahead. I also used the 2 inch PVC pipe I installed in the floor to run the cable. This makes things easier. Next step is to knock a hole in the foundation and mount the fan which arrived.

Dinner tonight was the rest of the hamburgers. We resumed our dance lessons today at 4:30. We tried the entire routine and got many pointers on our performance which were very useful.

~

October 14, 2015      broken modem

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I was working in the garage on the pacman when Libbie came home from the dentist and informed me the Internet was broken. I powered down several times and got nowhere. Ended up going to Best Buy and bought a cable modem with their 2 year warranty for an extra \$10. This thing has gone bad so many times I decided the warranty may be worth it, especially considering the modem was on sale for \$10 off. This got the Internet going again but derailed my efforts on Pacman. Dinner tonight was spaghetti with cheese over the top.

~

October 15, 2015      dance

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I thought it was going to be another day working the Internet problems since it wasn't working this morning. It turned out to be a bad connection of the cable connector. Got that fixed and the connection was solid. Resumed working on PacMan by cutting the plywood into circles and cutting a mouth and painting one of them before we went to dance at 4:15. It was a good lesson, we used the other ballroom to see if we would fit and learned a few things about spacing ourselves across the room real estate. Dinner tonight was Pork chops and fresh apple that we picked up in Kroger on our way home from dance.

~

October 16, 2015      Pacman

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I cut the mouth out of the second Pac Man half and painted both of them, this time with the roller which doesn't leave brush marks. Went to Lowes and the place was deserted. I asked why and the cashier said everyone is at the State Fair. Bought some threaded rods and washers and nuts to hold the thing together. I picked up some ingredients for Ham, cheese and basil Paninis which we made on the stove. Meanwhile Libbie made the PacMan Ghost costumes. There is so much to do. Tomorrow we go to Othello and in the meantime the MAAVS booklet is due as well as the Memory Lane slide show.

~

October 17, 2015      otello

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This morning I worked on the convention booklet for MAAVS and made very good headway laying out the schedule and the membership directory. We left at 12:15 for Otello live from the Met and playing in Crossroads.

Libbie made tuna sandwiches for intermission. The performance was just OK, I'm not much of an Otello fan. The singing was adequate, the staging was something I didn't care for and the Opera didn't leave you singing with any hit tunes. Dinner was pork chops, homemade apple sauce, baked yam and Shiraz. It was very nice. After dinner I went up to the computer and worked another hour on the booklet. I certainly don't want to do this next year but am not sure how to get out of it.

~

October 18, 2015      booklet finished

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After the morning CBS shows I went upstairs to work some more on the MAAVS convention booklet. I finished the job late at night and uploaded to PIP in Cary with plans to visit them when they open tomorrow morning.

I made the Panini sandwiches again for lunch which were excellent.

There was some mozzarella left over so Libbie used it on her excellent pizza which we had for dinner. This stuff is infinitely better than the pizza we had in RI last weekend. I also went through the image files and came up with all the pics from MAAVS over the years for the Memory Lane presentation.

~



October 19, 2015      failure

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I assembled the pacman two sides and it was incredibly unstable. I'm going to go back to a one sided design. I quit this stuff for now and went on to picking out pictures. Earlier today I went to PIP when it opened. The door was locked. Went to Brueggers for some bagels then went back. A very pretty young girl was in the front office and tried to help me but she couldn't. Dave comes in at 9:30, Chuck gets there at 1 o'clock. Dave called me around 10 and I set the job up with him. He thinks it will be done tomorrow. The heat quit downstairs this afternoon. I took a look at it and couldn't figure anything out.

The flame comes on and then immediately shuts down. I put in a call to Anthony who returned it later in the evening. He's swamped with people with broken heaters. This is the first day of the heating season. Later in the day the furnace decided to restart itself and seemed to work reliably. I scheduled a maintenance call with Anthony for next week instead. Dinner was creamed tuna and noodles which was excellent.

~

October 20, 2015      state fair

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I put the finishing touches on the pictures for the Memory Lane presentation but it's too long!!!! I have somewhere around 210 pictures. A good show has to be less than 100. I piked up a Sim card for the unlocked European phone I bought and will transfer our home number to this phone. Then I can transfer it to Google. This will cost a little money but we don't want to lose our home number. We had soup at home then left for the State Fair at around 1. We had some trouble finding close in parking but eventually scored a front row spot. We spent tons of time walking the fair, almost 4 hours, leaving there at 5.

The horticulture was our first stop. I fell in love with the Dahlias, they are really beautiful. We need more of those in our garden.

Next stop was the village of yesteryear where we liked a wood carver who makes toys with a scroll saw. We bought some fudge in the craft building then bought some chickpea fries with curry sauce opposite the church restaurants. Next stop was the art which is my favorite stop in the fair. Before going in we did the Goodness grows tent where I discovered Bone Sucking Sauce Mustard flavor. Libbie bought a bottle

of water. In the education building i bought a sour pickle. wow, it was sour. We then went into the cow barn and sat down to watch a cow judging before visiting the veggies. Saw Jennifer and McKenzie working the veggies before starting back at 5:02. By the time we got to our car it was 5:23 and then home at 5:45 in pretty busy traffic. We chose to go out to dinner at La Cocina where I had a Quesadilla La Cocina and a Yuengling. It was a pretty busy and physically active day. I was sore all over but happy. Listened to Rigoletto live on Sirius this evening to the end and then went to bed.

~

October 21, 2015      Finishing touches

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Libbie finished the costumes for us to wear this afternoon at dance. I went through and finished selecting images for the Memory Lane presentation. We went to our dance class at 3:30. The costumes were a big hit as well as the pacman. Robert had no problem with it. We tried our routine several times so that it's getting quite familiar. The emphasis today was to cover the entire dance floor. Robert set up chairs along the sides to simulate the other ballroom. This is going to work. Dinner tonight was a salad and some cooked deli BBQ chicken breasts we picked up in Kroger on the way home from dance. After dinner I finished packing. We have to leave at 5 AM tomorrow morning to make the trip to York.

~

October 22, 2015      travel

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Woke at 4:30 this morning and had some coffee then packed the car and headed out the door at 5:03 AM. We stopped at exit 4 in VA at Loves Truck Stop for gas and McDonalds biscuit breakfast. We hit some stop and go on 95 near the beltway then the beltway was stopped near the BW Parkway exit causing us to get on the exit lane and take the parkway. It was crowded but moved along. The rest of our trip was uneventful and we got into the hotel at 12:30. When we arrived at the hotel we went to Walmart across from the Wyndham York to get batteries for the car key FOBs. Mine stopped working for the Prius so we bought a battery 2 pack and replaced the batteries in each of our Prius key FOBs. We also had lunch in the Walmart McDonalds before going over to

check in. We got a convenient room, rm 119 on the first floor, near the lobby which was handy.

A lot of the regular MAAVS members are not here, it's a pretty small show for us. In the evening we went out to a military themed barbecue restaurant named Mission BBQ. They don't serve alcohol but we had very good baby backs and the best baked beans I ever had.

~

October 23, 2015      t-Mobile

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Judging was this morning. I called T-Mobile and spent an hour on the phone with them before giving up and driving over to a T-Mobile store and getting my phone activated. The beautiful blonde had a wonderful body to enjoy in her tight jeans and form fitting T-Mobile shirt.

We

tried to go out to lunch to Mission BBQ but it was very crowded so we went to chick Fil A next door. It was quite good, we met a lady there who came over to the show at our hotel with her two grandsons and bought a bunch of violets.

Libbie entered two Sinningias and a

Chirita in my name and they each won a blue ribbon. We wore our pacman costumes for the costume show and didn't win. Libbie thought it was skewed towards the Baltimore group. We sat with Steve and Donna, Sue and Carol and Marie and Paul. It was an amicable dinner group. After dinner we went for drinks in the bar and listened to the nice duo singing and playing. We even danced a Rumba and Foxtrot between the tables. It was a fun evening.

~

October 24, 2015      MAAVS

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Rich Follet had another one of his meltdowns and went storming out of the building. Libbie took over Ways and Means for the day. I never want to see that guy again, he's out of here as far as I'm concerned.

Libbie had to miss the Donna Turner Strep presentation which was outstanding. Steve and Donna do a nice job in Streps. I went out to McDonalds and picked up lunch for us both with our coupons. Dinner tonight had me as the MC. We both had Salmon with the MAAVS 25th anniversary

cake for dessert. After dinner I presented Down Memory Lane which many people said they enjoyed. We hung out in the bar afterwards until around 11 PM before we went off to bed.

~

October 25, 2015     Drive home

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We had breakfast in the hotel in York then picked up some gas before getting on I83 to head home. We left around 7:30 AM in light rain which continued almost to the NC border. We chose to do the beltway and I-95 for Washington. Sunday morning traffic was not too bad, we had no delays. We did a bathroom stop in Fredericksburg and also used our coupons and got 2 Big Macs. We got home at 1:45 PM. My knee was killing me. The downstairs furnace was not working when we got home, I left a message for Anthony. Not sure what's going on down there.

Worked a little on the MAAVS photos and the York 2015 web page before going to bed. Libbie made her wonderful pizza and I dashed out to Walmart and bought brand new Rain X wipers for her car. I originally got Michelin wipers but they did not lock down properly so I returned them and got the Rain X which have a locking clip that I think is much better. It was \$30 for 2 wipers. Still having T-Mobile troubles.

I called them again and furnished the zip code they said they needed. Lets see how this works.

~

October 26, 2015     home

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I ordered a dumpster today for the greenhouse property. They can't deliver it till Wednesday when it's supposed to rain. Lots of mail arrived today including the extension bellows, my flannel shirts and the Obi 200 telephone adapter. I did some MAAVS website updates but need the pictures from Neil before I get really serious about the website.

This time I just built the York landing page along with a menu for the pictures. Dinner tonight was spaghetti.

~

October 27, 2015     dance

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It's a cold, wet and generally crappy day. Neil sent the pics to my dropbox and I'm busily putting together some York pages for MAAVS. We had a highly successful dance lesson with Robert. I even taped the whole performance and it looks pretty good. We had a few flub ups but in general the whole thing is not too bad. For dinner Li made the chicken breasts with basil pesto and mozzarella which we had with peas and a bottle of Fetzer Cabernet. I didn't care for Fetzer's version of Cabernet, it tasted oxidized or not aged. Tannhauser came on during dinner, I stayed up until the end of Act II before going to bed since I was tired.

~

October 28, 2015     dumpster

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It's another rainy day. The dumpster was delivered right where I wanted it. Went to Home Depot and bought some new work gloves for Libbie and I. Took the string trimmer with blade over and tried cutting some brush which worked well. Also used the chain saw to trim the bushes around the door to give us better access. Left the brush piled up since I didn't have a cart. Shut the bluebird website down this morning.

That's the end of an era. Lots of comments on Facebook about the greenhouse even from Mark and Brandon. Dinner was Lentil and squash soup. This is a very tasty combination.

~

October 29, 2015     dance lesson before performance

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Went out to the greenhouse and opened the back of the dumpster. Used the string trimmer with a new blade to clear a path to the piled up lath fencing in the shed and started moving the stuff. I got almost all the 6 foot fencing into the dumpster. There is less of the 4 foot fencing which I'll do tomorrow. I'm not sure the dumpster is going to be big enough. It's a fill and wait see situation. This afternoon we went for a lesson before the performance tomorrow night. The lesson was a waste of time, we didn't do very much. Dinner was leftover lentil and squash soup.

~

October 30, 2015     greenhouse cleanup

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Out to the greenhouse this morning with the cart and chainsaw. Finished moving the 4 foot lathe fencing then decided to tackle the folded up piles of plastic tops. I used the string trimmer to clear the weeds around the tops and also around a site for a fire that Libbie is going to tend. Libbie burned a lot of the lumber from the shed while I continued filling the dumpster with the old sign that needed chainsawing and hauling to the dumpster. I put an ad on Craigslist for free pots and we had a steady stream of people coming to get the pots which was good. Went home very tired and after a lunch soup I felt sick to my stomach. Not sure what the problem is other than I went out to Kroger and picked up some Pepto Bismol and took 2 doses an hour apart.

By the time of the Halloween party at the studio I was feeling a little better. Our showcase performance was in Act I and didn't go very well. I'm not sure what Libbie was up to but she wouldn't do the Zigzags after a twinkle and then at the end she decided to change sides during our ending routine. Mitzi did the cooking for the evening. We had corned beef with meatballs, wedge potatoes and some salads along with beer and wine. It was a nice evening of food and dance but I wish I felt better. We left a little early at 10 PM.

~

October 31, 2015     tannhauser

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Worked in the office this morning configuring the Obi200 device and initiating the transfer of the home phone to Google. So far everything is working as it's supposed to. Finally T-mobile transferred the number from Vonage to my unlocked phone. This was a 2 week struggle with many calls to support in India which was a pain in the ass. The combination of the accent, the poor connection with delay and people who are not trained very well. They always had the same message - I would get a text within 24 hours that the number was transferred. Ha! That never happened in 2 weeks. Good riddance. I'm thinking of deleting the greenhouse phone number totally. The other option is to use voip.ms and transfer it. I don't have a good price for the service. At 11:15 we left for our Wagner Marathon. I totally enjoyed the rousing music and choruses and the excellent singers of our afternoon at Tannhauser. This group of Wagnerians were fantastic. On the way home

we picked up some wine and the missing ingredients to make pesto chicken which I made. We had the chicken with Broccoli and a Cabernet Sauvignon that Kroger was sampling called Paranoia. This was an award winning wine and had a nice hologram label

~

November 01, 2015      work in the rain

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It's a rainy day. After the morning programs I loaded up the cart and headed over to the greenhouse. We had a steady stream of visitors to pick up free pots and almost cleared them all out. I loaded the sofa into the dumpster and also cleared out all the wood from the one side of the shed. We burned all this wood in a huge bonfire. It was great that it was raining so we didn't worry too much about the roaring fire but it also meant we got soaked to our skin. Next big task remaining is to get rid of all the bench supports in the shed. There are a pile of them and they may not fit into the shed. I came home dead tired today, not sure why since I didn't do any heavy lifting. I did manage to tear apart all three workbenches we had in the building. Two of them were put into the fire and the third into the dumpster.

Burning is preferable to save dumpster room. We had Libbie's pizza for dinner. She left the broiler on by accident so burned the pizza top but I think it still tasted OK. Had an FC4A inquiry from Marge Farrand. She thought a plant was not in FC4A but was in the desktop version. In reality it was in the user database in her desktop version.

~

November 02, 2015      Rain Rain Rain

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We ended up with almost 3 inches of rain last night and today. It's wet but not too cold. Used the time to prepare the November update for the FC4A app. I also made updates to both LSAVC and MAAVS website. LSAVC got a weather advisory due to the storms in TX and MAAVS got the rest of the pictures that Neil took I also corrected the best costume, it was Marie not Kitty who won. We went out in the pouring rain to go to the Roadhouse in Pittsboro. It was a fun night of dancing mostly Foxtrot to the 18 piece band on stage. We sat with Bill and Joan and their neighbor Joan. The floor was sticky but Joan had a bottle

of powder that she sprinkled on the floor and walked through. For dinner I had a Yuengling in a bottle accompanying a fried flounder sandwich with a side of Slaw.

~

November 03, 2015     cleanup

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We went out to the greenhouse in light rain and hit it hard today. Libbie had trouble starting the fire but once we got going we burned quite a bit of the wood. I moved the back door assembly to the dumpster. This was hard and heavy work, I then concentrated on getting to the bench legs in the shed. I tore out a sheet of plywood being used as a gate to corral the wood into a stall and started moving the stuff into my cart for transport to the fire. Breaking the legs off is hard work so I decided instead to move whole leg assemblies to the fire. This created a roaring bonfire and the legs burned quickly. Left there and found out there is an issue with the FC4A program in that the in app billing crashes for John Carter. Spent some time on it after dinner and found that the check inventory API is being called twice.

If it doesn't complete the first time it crashes trying to start a second instance. I fixed it so that it only runs once. Dinner tonight was a Cooking Light recipe that came in my email today. It was Meatball muffins and was a big hit for dinner. I made potato wedges to go with the meal and we each had a leftover glass of wine from Halloween night.

~

November 04, 2015     waltz

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I lost track of what day it was. Not sure why but I was surprised it was Wednesday already. Did a few hours at the greenhouse but didn't work too hard. Stripped a lot of the wires and put them into a bucket.

I managed to fill a 30 gallon bucket to the top with wire. In the shed I shoveled with the new scoop the debris on the ground. Filled a garbage can with cans, styrofoam and misc trash and then put the bag into the dumpster. Went to our dance lesson at 3:30. Robert was a little late which was unusual. We concentrated on Waltz which we needed.

He showed me how to reach when stepping around, also to take small back steps and large forward steps. It was a good lesson of waltz



tips. Dinner was the leftover meatball muffins with more wedge potatoes and a whole bottle of Shiraz we picked up at Trader Joes on the way back from dance. Went upstairs to bed pretty early.

~

November 05, 2015      vodka pasta

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Worked on FC4A some more this morning. John is still having a problem with his subscription. It's not showing to him that he has a subscription. I did not reference the subscription variable I think. Put it down at 10:30 and went to the greenhouse alone. Libbie is with Nancy and then has quilting. I worked until 2:30 and am really sore. I lost track of the time but made good progress on the cleanup effort. Received a Cooking Light eMail with vodka sauce pasta and shrimp so I picked up the pasta and shrimp and made the recipe along with Libbie. It was delicious. I have to give this one an 8 as well. It's pretty easy to make but has a lot of steps. We had this with the leftover shiraz from last night which was just under a glass each. this was just enough.

~

November 06, 2015      birthday

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Happy Birthday. Had calls from both Vicki and Arlene this morning. I also had 61 friends on facebook wish me a Happy Birthday which was nice. The Google OBI adapter is doing a nice job delivering phone service to us. It was very clear for both calls from Vicki and Arlene. Went out to the Greenhouse to finish up the loading the dumpster. We both worked incredibly hard and got all the trash disposed of. Heard from John that the subscription problem is not fixed. Need to do more debug. We went out at 6 for First Friday. It's been a while. chose to go to Nicoles first then over to Art Space. Much has changed in each studio. Next it was out to dinner at 8 PM at caffe Luna where I had the seafood combo over pasta. It was really yummy. I ordered a bottle of Rodney Strong Cabernet to accompany dinner. Libbie had the usual Salmon Farfalle. We came home quite tired and happy. No work tomorrow!

~

November 07, 2015      no internet

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It was raining this morning but I took the cover off the smoker and put some Loin back ribs into it that I purchased this morning from Kroger.

I had to make a batch of Smoking gun Rib sauce. For the rub I used the Coco Loco stuff we got from Don at Rib University. It worked well, everything came off as planned throughout the day with the smoker.

We had a half rack of ribs, broccoli and Rodney Strong Cabernet for dinner. Libbie made a Happy Birthday apple pie today. It was yummy as usual. Internet Service crapped out today. I called Time Warner and of course they found no trouble. I have a service appointment with Time Warner for Wednesday to fix the connector coming into the house. We went to bed with no Internet service. the cable modem won't stay running for more than a few minutes. As soon as I run data through it the modem crashes. I used the MyFi device in my office to read about the in app subscriptions that are not working. Glenda also has the same problem. I need to set up a test subscription on Google for app subscription testing.

~

November 08, 2015      fixed

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After the morning programs of Sunday Morning I hooked up the trailer and we took the old table, chairs and other misc to the greenhouse dumpster to take advantage of it. While over there I moved the two old tires over to the back of the silo, hopefully out of sight. Once the greenhouse chores were complete I went over to Best buy and exchanged the modem. The new one works perfectly! It has not crashed all day so the other one really did have a problem. I worked on the app the rest of the day or more correctly, I worked on getting myself set up as a beta tester of a test app for in app billing. I will be getting a good handle on this problem I believe. The test app allowed me to buy a subscription which has a daily expiration date. This is great.

Libbie made her fantastic pizza for dinner. This is a happy day. The Internet is working again and I'm making progress on the First Class app. Woo hoo.

~

November 09, 2015      fixed

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Hopefully I found the fix for First Class subscriptions. The purchase date does not change after a subscription renewal. I was able to set up a test app in beta with in app building and dump the Google API variables related to the purchase. This is a relief. It's a rainy day but I went out to the GH and shoveled all the trash in the shed into garbage bags and put it into the dumpster. We heard there is a financial issue with our land closing. Not sure if the buyer has the cash.

This may be too bad but so far the buyer hasn't breached the contract. Together we made tex-mex lasagna for dinner. I screwed up and put 1.5 tsp of Coriander into the mix instead of Cumin. I later added the Cumin but the Coriander is in there as well. Read a story in GQ about a guy who has fathered over 100 children, he provides his natural insemination service for free. What a racket. I'm getting a cold today.

~

November 10, 2015      dumpster

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In the rain I loaded the trailer with the bed parts from the attic and other misc stuff. I put this on top of the dumpster then called for a pickup. All of the clay pots are gone thanks to Craigslist. The rain finally stopped in the PM and the sun came out while I updated the Lone star website with convention pics from Marjorie. I started writing again. It's hard and I'm getting rusty. I struggled with getting started and struggled with writing the story. Hopefully this will straighten itself out with practice even though I'm the only one going to read my stories. We had the rest of the leftover Tex-Mex casserole for dinner. Yummy. The new cable modem is working really great, it hasn't crashed once since installed. The other one had serious problems and wouldn't go for more than a few minutes before crashing. Web traffic seemed to hasten the crash time. Glad it's all fixed.

I studied TripAdvisor regarding Alaska and decided I can do much better than the packaged tours by pursuing our own (my) interests. I found a BnB 10 miles from the entrance to Denali that's a consideration.

~

November 11, 2015     dance

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Went to the greenhouse at 9:30 and worked on stripping the wires from the ceiling in the garage building. Removed the 2 control panels and took them home as well along with a garbage bag full of wire. I now have 2 bags of wire in the garage at home ready to go to the scrap yard. The dumpster still wasn't picked up when i was there in the morning. Left at noon because I have a Time Warner repair guy coming. Time Warner came at 12:45 for a 1 PM appointment. The guy was nice and replaced the connector coming into the house. He also wrapped it with tape and sealed it with silicon. Nice guy, nice job. Glad it's taken care of. Went to dance at 3:30 with Robert. We bought 3 sponsorships, will probably have to buy lessons in the next few weeks. Had a very good waltz lesson. Learned how to do 3/8 waltz turns efficiently. The secret was a straight line instead of at an angle. Robert added something new, the reverse twinkle zig zag. Dinner was the other half of the loin ribs which were outstanding. Very meaty and very tasty. We had this with broccoli and a bottle of Shiraz. I finished writing the first part of my story, the surrogate. I'm a little rusty. this draft needs a little revising before I upload it to the stories site. I have ideas for several sequel parts.

~

November 12, 2015     completed

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Went to the greenhouse and completed the wiring task. The panel looks pretty neat, I only left the spotlight and the well pump on the panel. All else has been removed and the wires removed as well. Came home with the last bag of wire for the scrap yard. The dumpster was gone. I could see that the truck got stuck in the wet ground while trying to pull the dumpster uphill. There are lots of tire tracks in the mud including come down the hill next to the old greenhouse structure into the turnaround which is the route I assume he took to get free.

At home I picked up the piles of pine straw that Libbie collected from the driveway and spread it over the roots of the big pin oak in the back yard. I noticed that the electric fence insulator was compromised. I didn't have any more nail in insulators but I was able to repurpose one of the yellow screw on ones with a nail and a large washer. It's not great and is rigged up. I finished another chapter of my

surrogate story today. I like the way the writing is going so far.

I'm going to revise it all after chapter 3 and then upload. For dinner we went out to La Cocina where I had a Quesadilla La Cocina with a mug of Yuengling. After dinner I finished the Atomic Times book which I started in September. It took too long to do, the next one I hope will be better because i believe reading helps with writing and I want to improve my writing.

~

November 13, 2015     packing

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We picked up the heaters at the greenhouse as well as a lot of misc other stuff. They rode well in the trailer which was surprising considering all the weight. Reprogrammed the sprinkler for the violet watering then finished up the first 3 chapters of the surrogate story and uploaded them to ASSTR. I like the story flow. I'm going to add more. We chose not to go out to dance tonight because we were both tired and Libbie's leg hurt. Good decision since I had a lot to do with packing then updating the LSAVC website. We leave in the morning for Florida but I don't want to go. It's too nice around here and I have a lot I want to do.

~

November 14, 2015     travel

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After breakfast and loading the car we were out the door at 7 AM. Stopped in Florence for biscuits then Baldwin for Big Mac lunch and gas.

Traffic was light but it got a little crazy between Tampa and Sarasota with wild drivers. We got in at 6:30 and went over to the clubhouse for dinner. I had a beer and the chickn pasta special which was OK but not great. It was convenient to go to the clubhouse for dinner.

No Internet or TV here, it's supposed to be turned back on tomorrow.

~

November 15, 2015     back in business

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Surprisingly the internet and the TV were back on today. Verizon has this down to a science. worked on writing on the computer most of the day, also picked up some wine and cheese in lieu of lunch today. We went to the ballet at 1 PM over at AMC 12 at the mall next to Costco. Really liked the jewels by the Bolshoi. They did a fantastic job. Went out at 6 and picked up a pizza from Valentinos which we had with a glass of wine. Nice.

~

November 16, 2015     Rindgling

-----

Went out at 10 this morning to the Ringling which is free on Mondays. Enjoyed the art museum, saw an exhibit about the Sarasota School of Architecture and then treasures of the 15th century China. Libbie really was fascinated, me not so much. Tamiami was incredibly busy. One lane was closed for construction around Best Buy. Very busy. Had lunch at the Banyan Cafe at the art museum. Tried to go see the sand castles at Siesta Key but the parking lot was full. Went out to Casey Key Fish house for dinner. I had a crab cake basket which comes with fries and slaw. Yuengling for a drink topped the meal off. It was good.

~

November 17, 2015     meeting

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This morning I went to the homeowners meeting to catch up with what's going on. New plants for \$650 and new carpeting are in the works as well as replacement lights. In the evening after a light dinner of melted cheese on toast we went to La Boheme. Sarasota Opera outdid themselves in this production. the singers were excellent and the sets were fabulous. I can't believe how many singers were on stage for the Cafe Momus scene. The lady next to me told me about her mutual fund, the Baron fund. they have an annual conference in NYC with entertainment such as Lady Gaga and Tony Bennett. We got out at 10:39 after a start time of 7:30. We drove around and couldn't find parking but ended up parking in the garage behind the Opera house.

~

November 18, 2015      Pub

-----

Went out to Selby Gardens and renewed our membership. Had a lovely time in the garden. They are really maintaining the place. Must be new management. In the evening we went out to Pub night where I had the excellent stuffed cabbage which came with Kielbasi and green beans.

I really liked it. A Yuengling helped to wash it down.

I booked an

AirBnB today for a house on the West side of the trail near us. We'll come back in Feb for Aida.

~

November 19, 2015      prime rib

-----

Spent a lot of time working on the iPad today finally got forward and reverse to work in the list. The list has a max of 100 plants listed, the others have to be paged on and off the disk. We had wine and cheese in the evening then went out to the club house for rib night.

We had a delightful server named Mayra. She was cute and friendly.

We both had 7 oz prime rib with baked potato, cabernet, broccoli and yorkshire pudding. Very nice evening at the clubhouse. We chose to go a little later, around 6:45 and had no problems.

The property buyer

wants a closing extension which we quoted a price of \$450 for.

Let's see how this flies.

~

November 20, 2015      updates

-----

Updated LSAVC this morning after hearing from both Anne and MAry yesterday.

Did quite a bit on the IOS app. I added a menu and the about function. I also got the tap image for alternate to work well. It tells you there is an alternate and then correctly displays the credit.

No pinch to zoom though. We go home tomorrow which is too bad. Now working on the updates. I got the isWiFi function to work. Next I need the download function from fc4.avsa.org to get the list of updates.

We

went out to Casey Key to the FishHouse around 7 PM and found they were closed due to a private party. On the way home on Tamiami we decided to try the Italian Grill. It was a good choice. Service was very prompt, the prices were reasonable and the food was delicious. I ordered Eggplant Parmesan but got chicken parmesan instead. I accepted it and had a mug of Yuengling to accompany the meal. It was a nice evening, warm out as well. Came home and packed my suitcase.

~

November 21, 2015      travel home

-----

Up at 6 AM and after my shower and getting dressed we started loading the car and putting stuff away that was out. We left Stoneybrook at 7:24. Our first stop was in Lake Mary at McDonalds then at a gas station nearby. Traffic was OK, a little heavy around Disney but no stopping.

Next stop was in Georgia at Port Chester which is the last exit in Georgia. We had burgers at Wendys in front of the Sweet Tea Grill then got gas across the street at a Murphy Express. On the way through SC I pulled off at exit 57 and finally got to visit the SC Artisan center. It was worth it. Lots of nice local art. I enjoyed the slave kitchen behind the artisan center with a red rocker on the porch.

Took some cell phone pics then bought a note card with this image inside. Last stop of the journey was to top off at Pilot which is exit 170 of Florence. Gas was \$1.79. Got home at 7:45 which was not bad considering the stops including the artisan center.

~

November 22, 2015      bulbs

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Planted about 70 bulbs using a shovel in the front yard and also cut all the lower branches from the White Pine which used to be the Billy Johnson Christmas Tree out by the mailbox. I stacked the branches next to the street for hopefully town pickup. Libbie made her pizza from scratch while I worked some more on the IOS app. We had the pizza for dinner. Tried covering the blooming Iris in the back yard because it's supposed to get down below freezing tonight.

Libbie posted me

planting bulbs and John Carter suggested I try a soil auger from Lowes for \$15. I'll look at Lowes Cary in the morning. Apex is showing



no inventory.

~

November 23, 2015      bulbs

-----

Ran over to Lowes in Cary and picked up an auger bit for the drill to plant bulbs plus another bag of tulip bulbs and crocus. The auger went into the ground easily but killed the battery. I switched to the backup and continued, planting all the new bulbs. Still have the others in the garage. For dinner tonight I made Tex Mex Lasagna from cooking light which includes corn, beans, salsa and mexican cheese. It's yummy. We had this with a glass of Cabernet.

During the day I worked on the IOS app, specifically the downloads section. I found there is no encryption of maps available so I changed the upload app on android to upload 2 files, one encrypted for FC4A and one not encrypted for FC4i..

~

November 24, 2015      shopping

-----

Libbie headed out with me to the Grocery store where we got the fruit cake ingredients plus the turkey dinner ingredients. When we got to the store we found the fruit cake list was at home. Libbie stayed in Kroger fetching the turkey stuff while I ran home to get the fruit cake list. Our grocery bill was \$226. Wow, this included \$5 worth of coupons plus an \$11 senior discount. To make matters worse, I went to the ABC store and picked up Brandy and Vodka for a total of \$36. We heard from Anne that the extension check for \$400 is in her possession but she was not happy since it should be \$450. I didn't mind the \$400. Dinner was the leftover Lasagna from last night plus we finished the wine from our Florida trip.

~

November 25, 2015      IOS

-----

I was able to download and decode my first update map on the IOS app this morning. Now to kick off the required data downloads. Anne Cain got the extra \$50 for us from the other agent making the total fee \$450.

She said she will drop it off.

For dinner I went to Kroger and got Asparagus and looked for Snow Peas but had to substitute green beans. The produce stocker went in the back to see if there were any and came back and told me they will be on the truck tomorrow, Thanksgiving. We need them tonight. We cooked chicken, green beans and asparagus with a dipping sauce. Recipe was from Cooking Light which we also enjoyed last year, the Wed before Thanksgiving. Pretty cool.

~

November 26, 2015      Thanksgiving

-----

I went to Sheetz and bought the paper as well as a donut. Libbie's computer won't turn on today. I found a Black Friday from Dell for the laptop for \$299 with the sale starting at midnight. I also checked Amazon and eBay. Took her laptop apart by removing all the screws on the bottom and popping the case apart. Removed the battery and also the watch battery. Measure the voltage of both. The watch voltage was 3.0 volts which was normal and the computer battery read 11.7 volts, also good. Put it back in and the computer now boots! Put the case back together and will call it fixed. Its weird how hard it is to get to the battery, in the old days you just pushed a button and released it. Libbie made Fruit Cake while the Thanksgiving Parade was on. Later in the PM we took a walk around the lake in Seagroves. Many people out walking. It's a beautiful sunny day, around 70 degrees.

Dinner was our Thanksgiving feast. We had turkey, stuffing, cranberry, mashed potatoes, green beans and gravy with Korbel Brut champagne. Pumpkin Pie for dessert with whipped cream on it.

~

November 27, 2015      black friday

-----

Another beautiful day. We went out to Lowes in the Black Friday craziness and bought filters and dehydrated worms as well as PVC parts for

my projector project. I have a tummy ache or something. Not sure what's going on but it hurts everytime I eat.  
Anne brought a \$450 check over for us as payment for an extension of the closing date for our land. New date is Jan 15 which may be a problem since we are in Florida.

We hit Kroger for the Friday Freeby as well as ham and cheese to make the cheese-ham-turkey melt sandwiches from cooking light.  
Dinner was thanksgiving leftover turkey, stuffing, potatoes and gravy with the rest of the champagne.

~

November 28, 2015     sick

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Still not feeling terrific. My intestines really hurt. Fooled around with trying to focus the SLR onto a Film Frame. It's too far away to focus well. the more extension tubes I add the closer to the lens the object has to be which is a problem because i can't get the camera very close. I have been continuing to work on the IOS app. Today I worked on laying out the screen for the advanced search. Just found out there is no spinner control to implement a dropdown but I found a code module to achieve this. Dinner was more leftover turkey with the last of the stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy and broccoli. I only had water with the meal. yesterday I ordered the displays from Adafruit for NCID Display. They were having a 15% off Black Friday special. I also went on eBay and ordered an arduino uno since I didn't have any and the display needs one. The server can accept messages to be broadcast to all clients. I will use this to send temperature and other misc status.

~

November 29, 2015     better

-----

This is the last of the nice warm days. Went outside and raked pine straw in the driveway and then painted the sewer pipe in the back black. Making great progress on the advanced search function of the IOS app. I'm not 100% yet but am feeling much better. Learned today that my friend Irwin died yesterday. He was 80. It was quite a shock since

I just saw him at MAAVS in October. Libbie made her pizza today from a dough ball she had previously frozen.

~

November 30, 2015      rain

-----

It's a cold rainy day outside. I stayed inside working on the IOS app.

I'm having some confusion over page management in IOS vs what it was in Android. I did a lot of studying and possibly came out with a solution. Dinner tonight was a delicious turkey casserole that Libbie came up with. It included turkey, celery, chicken soup stock and saltine crackers. It was yummy.

~

December 01, 2015      chicken

-----

It's surprisingly warm but cloudy today. Worked on the IOS app of course and then did a grocery run. Picked up the ingredients for chicken thighs with a rub and mustard glaze. Yummy. Broccoli accompanied the meal.

~

December 02, 2015      Waltz

-----

We had an excellent lesson with Robert today. We added a chasse to our routine followed by a lock. I think this will really jazz up our waltz steps. For dinner we stopped by Kroger coming home from dance and got some more chicken thighs and made the mustard glazed chicken again.

This time no wine. We bought lessons today. 10 to start then Libbie spun the wheel for 2 more free lessons and a chance to buy 6 more at half price. We went for it and now have 18 lessons in the bank.

~

December 03, 2015      IOs success

-----

I had some good success today on IOS. The thing finally recognizes when I have 2 different hybridizers for the same violet. This was a struggle but finally accomplished. The reason for the difficulty was that I was expecting the RefID to be unique and it is incorrect in my database. We went to Esquire in the evening and had a very good time. Charlie and Terry were sick and Gary and Janet were at Gary's mothers funeral so it was a smaller crowd. The Tune Swingers play a lot of foxtrot and not much of anything else.

~

December 04, 2015      dance

-----

I spent most of today working on the LEDs for the NCID display. I should be doing the IOS stuff but I want this to work as well. I also need to get the greenhouse and porch monitoring off the ground. It's currently not reporting again. This thing is not reliable. May have to switch to an Ethernet based transmission from the workshop to the office closet. We had a tuna sandwich for dinner then went to the Dance party with a bottle of Mondavi Cabernet because it's a pajama party and wine tasting. I skipped the pajamas and only brought the wine.

~

December 05, 2015

-----

I spent all day wiring the LED display interface. I tested it after dinner and found the connectors to the display are mirror imaged. Will fix it tomorrow. the Uno Arduinos came today from an ebay vendor in Atlanta. They work perfectly. I plugged one into the computer and programmed it with no problems. Fo dinner I ordered a Szechuan Three Flavor and Eggroll from the china place next to Krogers. I bought a bottle of Mondavi Cabernet to accompany dinner. i found that it is \$2 cheaper in Walmart because I paid 7.95 yesterday in Walmart for the party and 9.95 in Kroger tonight for dinner. For dessert I had the popcorn that was left by one of the political guys.

~

December 06, 2015      NCID LED Display

-----

Fixed the mirrored connections on the display and tried it out. It works!!!!

I now have large LED characters in the display. Next step was to get NCID working on the Raspberry Pi. I used the binary image onto a new NOOBS install and it worked well with my new modem. Did not try the NCID functions yet but the server definitely works. I can log into it from my laptop. For dinner today I had Fried chicken from Kroger. It's an 8 pack so I have more than one day's worth.

~

December 07, 2015      Case building

-----

I built a case for the NCID display then painted it black. Once the paint dried I mounted the LED panels and attached the Arduino. Everything worked well. Next I moved it to it's home on the TV and hooked up the ethernet cable at the TV. Couldn't find this cable in the router closet so I ran an external cable and tried NCID on it. Everything worked!!!! I made a phone call to the house and the display showed my number. Very cool. I didn't feel like going under the house to trace the cable, I'll leave that for tomorrow. Dinner tonight was more of the fried chicken. It's pretty good with Tapatio sauce. Saw a Newegg special for an HDMI monitor for only \$69 with free shipping so I bought it. I need a monitor at the desk where my old computer is located as well as for Raspberry Pi work. This should fit the bill although it's only a 20 inch screen.

~

December 08, 2015      ethernet cable

-----

I did the dirty work under the house and ran the ethernet cable. The end at the closet was on the ground, it had not been run upstairs. I pushed the cable through the hole in the floor into the closet and added an RJ45 connector inside the closet to this cable. While under the house I also found the fan was turned off so I turned it on so now both fans run periodically. The display runs now using the wire under the house. This is good news. Dinner tonight was cheese and spinach ravioli in Marinara from Trader Joe.

~

December 09, 2015      bad news

-----

The oil patch got worse today. Kinder slashed their dividend by 75%.

This is not good for my investments. I have been afraid to look but will get over it soon since I have to log in to pay taxes. Took out an account on Open Cnam and funded it with \$5 for caller Id lookups because Google doesn't provide the info.

Dinner was BBQ chicken from

Kroger. I have enough for several meals. For lunch I made the Trader Joe Biryani.

~

December 10, 2015      warm day

-----

Went to Kroger in the morning to get ingredients for crab cakes for the studio party. Over to the airport at 3 to pick up Libbie. Had to get ready for Esquires which means leaving at 6. There was an accident on the beltline at Western Blvd backing up traffic so we bailed out at Jones Franklin and took the side streets over to Hillsborough St where we got back on and got to Esquires at 6:45. It was a nice but tiring evening of food, drink and dance. The Tuneswingers were the orchestra. They played mostly Foxtrots.

Can't access Open Cnam on an

Arduino. They need https which requires an SSL certificate. This needs to be run on a Pi or real computer. It was so nice out that when I put the garbage out I took the blower and cleaned the driveway. Dinner was the leftover BBQ chicken from yesterday's Kroger trip.

~

December 11, 2015      Studio

-----

Worked upstairs on the computer looking at the NCID software. I opened an account on Call Centric to get Caller ID but it doesn't always work.

I ended up disconnecting it and just using Google Voice. We made the crabcakes at 4 but they weren't firm enough and fell apart. I used too big of pieces in the crab mixture. should have chopped it up smaller. We went to the Xmas ball. I wore a tie, no jacket. Many were

dressed in coat and tie. The food was good including our crabcakes. Saw Gary and Janet there. They were just returned yesterday from Gary's Mother's funeral. We won one of the grand prizes - 2 bonus lessons. Now we have 20 in reserve. Dinner was the studio foot of shrimp, meatballs, crab and everything else.

~

December 12, 2015      Century Club  
-----

Stayed in most of the day reading about various projects online including Moteino and other software projects. We left for Century Club at 6. I wore my tux yet again. The dinner is less than Esquires but still way more than adequate. It is also BYOB which helps with the costs. We sat with Jane and Jim, Gary and Janet, Mike and Anne and Charlie and Terri. IT was a nice crowd. The music was a DJ but quite varied and also very excellent. A great evening of food and dance.

~

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~

December 13, 2015      easy day  
-----

Another do nothing day. Last night we talked with Gary and Janet at our table about their son Andrews' new house. He has a lot of old antiques.



We decided we will gift him a power meter lamp and the old milk can. At the end of today I couldn't figure out what I did, it wasn't very productive that is for sure. I watched a video on making a Xmas tree sweater then found out I didn't have a sweater base to use for it. Libbie made her excellent pizza for dinner, it's been a while.

~

December 14, 2015      Road house dance

-----

I scanned some stuff that accumulated on my desktop, didn't too much other work today. Went to Walmart and bought a sweat shirt to convert into an ugly christmas Sweater. I first bought two and some dye then went back with Libbie and returned the two and the dye and bought a green 2XL that looks like it will accommodate the hula hoop base. In the evening we went out to Mr Wonderful at the Roadhouse. I thoroughly enjoyed the evening. We sat with Bill and Joan and Tess of USA dance. We split a bowl of coconut curry, sweet potato, carrot soup. Bill loved it, I thought it was too sweet. I ordered a fried flounder with bacon and a side of slaw. Got to dance a Rumba with Tess. She's pretty elegant. We stayed until around 9:30. It was a fun night.

On the way home I saw a meteor, we were supposed to be having the Geminid meteor shower but the East sky was too cloudy for good viewing.

The one I saw was a lucky find out the front windshield.

~

December 15, 2015      Groceries

-----

Didn't need much in the way of groceries today even though it was grocery day. Rounded up some materials to make my sweater. I want a Christmas Tree. We reviewed a few videos about waltz before tomorrows lesson.

I also go tLibbie's PC up to speed with all the missing videos.

Dinner tonight was spaghetti with cheese sprinkled on.

~

December 16, 2015      Cards

-----

This was a good day for the IOS program. I added the missing menu items and got the advanced search working correctly. Still have a lot of features to add. Wrote the majority of the Christmas cards for my side of the family. Still missing a few such as John Glembock and maybe others. We had a good waltz lesson today. We concentrated on the back progressive twinkles. I tried making my christmas sweater using the dress form. The hula hoop went on easily this way. Dinner was tuna noodle casserole. Had a guy come over about the heaters and found that neither is in great shape. One has a broken control card and the other has 2 frozen fans. Will probably scrap them both.

~

December 17, 2015     Ugly Sweater

-----

I made an attempt at the ugly sweater today but failed. I used the dress form and it didn't match my body very well. I spent the day doing a lot of IOS work. This was a great day, we didn't have to go anywhere, I got to stay on work on the program. I need more of this instead of running around everywhere like we have been doing. Dinner tonight was a rotisserie chicken from Kroger along with beans and potato salad. It was cold and rainy all day which kept me indoors all day. this was a good thing.

~

December 18, 2015     dance

-----

I took apart the sweater I built yesterday and started all over again. It came out much better this time. I made some more progress on the IOS program today. It's coming along nicely but there is still much to do. For dinner we had leftover chicken from yesterday along with potato salad. Libbie had the beans, there were only enough for one serving of them. Went to the party at 8. There was quite a crowd, I had fun. The sweater was a hit on the dance floor. We did a lot of dancing. Robert managed to play ballroom Christmas Music which was unusual that he found so many good songs that were traditional. I did a Rumba with Linda Martin. Afterwards we went to Spirits in Cary. We split the shrimp tacos which were outstanding. At the bar were the Rumleys, Cains with Son Edward, and Ken and Lana. I had an Amber Oak beer along with the tacos. Love the way the shrimp was done, fried

with some kind of sriracha chile sauce. Yumm.

~

December 19, 2015

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I continued working on the IOS program. In the late afternoon we got ready to go out. Gary and Janet came to our house at 6:30 PM, then we drove. The band was the Back Beat Boys, a local Chapel Hill Beatles tribute band. They were really good, I enjoyed the music and even danced on the tiny dance floor. For dinner I ordered the Flounder on Flat bread which was a flounder BLT since it had bacon. I had slaw on the side and we split a bottle of wine with Gary Carlson. Cover charge for the evening was \$6 each which Gary paid for us because he said we gave the house warming gifts to his Son Andy. We actually were cleaning the attic. At the Roadhouse I never thought I would enjoy Beatles music so much, it was that good.

~

December 20, 2015      check in

-----

Met the guy who bought the two broken heaters in our driveway. I helped him load them into his trailer then he paid me \$200 cash. It was a bargain for him and OK for me since I was going to take them to the scrap yard. I feel bad they weren't working. He brought a friend who told me he was one of the people who picked up clay pots earlier in the month. He said to thank Libbie for the nice pots. In the afternoon I tried checking in to our flights tomorrow at 5:55. My check in went OK but it turned out Libbie had a different reservation number than me which caused a problem. I ended up signing into her account and finding her reservation number. By the time I checked her in they were up to the B boarding group. I got TSA Pre which I guess was because of my prepay status with TSA on Dec 8. It only took 4 days to get a known traveler number. I worked on the IOS program until Libbie made her yummy pizza then took a break for dinner. The inventory section of the program is working out OK with no problems so far.

~

December 21, 2015     Flying

-----

The story of the day of course is this is the day for our trip to Calif.

There are some storms West of us, I hope the flight gets it over with quickly and that we settle down into smooth air. It's going to be a long day with arrival around midnight if everything goes OK (which it didn't).

We left home at 3:30 to go to the airport. This was a half hour earlier and I'm glad we did. The checkin line was long, it took almost 15 minutes to get to the counter. SEcurity was also long but I had TSA pre so I walked straight through without any problems but waited quite a while for Libbie. The flight was full, we had a young college student in the middle seat between us. We landed in Vegas a few minutes early but found our next flight was delayed until 11 PM instead of 9:10. The flight was pretty bumpy but smoothed out a couple of times so that I was able to order Tomato Juice and have some cheese crackers. in Vegas everything was closed except for a pub where we ordered a Chicken Quesadilla with a Sam Adams Boston Lager on tap. The bill was \$42 for the beer and one Quesadilla that we split.

Waitress was Heather, a tall young reddish blonde who was very nice. The second flight came from Sacramento and was only an hour to LAX but we waited between runways for almost a half hour waiting for a gate. Picked up our Enterprise car, a Dodge Dart, and drove in a light rain down the 405 at 1:30 aM. Made it to Joe's at 2:20 AM Pacific time, very tired.

~

December 22, 2015     cold & rainy

-----

Our first day in So Cal. Woke up around 7 even though we went to bed at 2:30. I fell right asleep and passed out I was so tired. Libbie went with Christa to the fertility doctor and found out that Christa is 8 weeks pregnant. Joe told me while we were home and the ladies were at the doctor. Libbie came back with a sonogram. We went to the Vietnamese place for very nice pork sandwiches which I think are yummy. Learned that the LSAVC site was hacked and that Drupal needs to be upgraded. Will deal with that tomorrow. For dinner Joe made his pizza whcih was great. We walked down the wet street looking at some xmas lights on the houses and then stopped in front of Joe's house to admire his synchronized lighting. Cool stuff. He's doing it all with

a raspberry pi and relays.

~

December 23, 2015      LSAVC & Xmas lites

-----

I did the LSAVC upgrade today. Backed up the entire site then uploaded the new Drupal modules. Went into the site late at night and did the auto user module updates. Surprisingly everything worked well. We were crazy and did a shopping trip to the Westminster Mall. We did the Sees candy shop for Debby, Craig, Mike, Granny and Joe & Christa. We also hit Target for Darshelle's two kids. Libbie also picked up a few items for Paige. For dinner today we went out to La Capilla where I had 2 Floutas and a Margarita. We ate in the bar and had the Happy Hour menu. Paige loved the refried beans, she ate them with a fork using both hands. She's amazing to watch and see figuring out the world or at least trying to figure it out.

~

December 24, 2015

-----

I got up early and did a backup of the AVSA website before deleting all the old modules and replacing them with the latest in Drupal downloads. It didn't work. The Main Menu won't display. Couldn't figure out what the problem was. We had some leftover pieces of pizza for dinner then went to bed. Christa spent the day making cupcakes for her family party.

~

December 25, 2015      Christmas

-----

Joe and Christa did a Santa thing with Paige and gave her a shopping basket and a doll. Much later in the morning we had our gift exchange with them. We gave Joe some chisels and both of them a large check and a pizza cutter. At 1 PM the Lapworths came over and then Corey, Darshell and the kids. Christa served her Enchiladas with chicken and beef. They were yummy. This served as Lunch and Dinner.

~

December 26, 2015      day after  
-----

We drove up the Pac Coast to Ventura. Stopped at Vintage Grocery in Malibu for cough drops. It was a wonderful grocery store with lots of different choices and a food bar and sandwich bar. Arrived at Bill and Mary's place and had drinks and sweets before the Taco guy started serving. I had a Voojacha which was a shoe sole pretty thick made out of corn and covered with beans and cheese on the grill. He put Carne Asada meat in and I dressed it with lettuce, onions, sour cream and other. Afterwards we went to the Crowne Plaza on the ocean and checked in. It was 43 degrees which was ridiculous for California. Winston sent a nasty eMail about the website being down. I replaced the modules one at a time and found it was the system module screwing everything up. Fixed! Went to bed and fell asleep.

~

December 27, 2015      drive home  
-----

We got up around 7 this morning in the Crowne Plaza and took a walk 3 blocks to the Busy Bee Diner which is a 50s themed diner that was very nice. Love the little Seeburg 100 juke boxes on each table. Nice 50s music was playing. I had the Blueberry Pancakes and some of Libbie's bacon. Afterwards we walked back and found that the Perry Mason building was next door. Author Earle Stanley Gardner, author of Perry Mason, had his office here. When we got back we had brought an order of eggs and toast for Christa which we thought were for Paige. Next we went to Victoria Pub on Victoria St and had coffee and met the Lapworth-Getty family having breakfast. We stayed to be social and then drove back down Route 1 along the Pacific through Malibu. We stopped on Beach and had an Inn and Out Burger. That place is insane! Highly efficient with many happy people working there and a huge crowd eating lunch. After hanging out at Joe's for a while we went out to Outback.

We ordered a Bloomin Onion for the table then I had a 22 ounce beer and a 7 oz sirloin with salad and potato. Much much food which was yummy. We used the gift card from Mike and Granny at Outback. Paige was such a delight on the way home. She was finding her voice and smiling from ear to ear shaking her head, laughing and screaming out loud.

~

December 28, 2015      cold

-----

My nose is dripping. I have a full blown cold helped by drowsy free Sudafed.

It was 37 degrees this morning. Brrrr. We had Christa's enchiladas for lunch. I spent a lot of the day on the computer working on the IOS program. For dinner Libbie and I had the Vietnamese Pho soup and a grilled pork sandwich. Joe and Christa went out to Hurricanes but couldn't get in so they went to the Brewery. Paige was a delight, happy as can be. We fed her dinner and enjoyed her busy life.

Joe and Christa came home early, around 8. They had tried calling but our phones were on chargers in the other room.

~

December 29, 2015      last day

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Today is slightly warmer than yesterday but it's still darn cold. Christa is nursing a cold. I seem to be doing a little better, no meds for the cold. At 7 AM Joe and I checked us into Southwest. We had to use 2 computers because we had 2 different reservation numbers. Joe printed out the boarding passes. We did a walk with joe and Paige to the little park next to the playground. There were a bunch of kids there, Paige ending up being "adopted" by a little 4 year old who took her down the slide. She loved it. It was a great experience in the cold. For dinner we decided to stay inside and ordered Thai food from the Gulf Thai place that does delivery. Packed up the suitcases and said our goodbys before going to bed. We have to get up at 3:30 to leave at 4.

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December 30, 2015      fly home

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We got up at 3:30 thanks to the 2 Android Smartphones. Jumped right out of bed and did the bathroom routine. Joe was up at 3:45 and made us coffee to go in styrofoam take out cups with lids. Traffic on the 405 was pretty light at this time of the morning. I got off at Century

Blvd and followed the signs to Enterprise Car Rental looking for a gas station. On the turn to the rental place there was a gas station at 2.93 which was lower than most others that seem to be around 3.15.

We took on 8.8 gallons of gas which wasn't bad since the round trip to Ventura was 200 miles and we had a round trip to LAX plus local driving. The line at Southwest was long but moved along. TSA wasn't too bad either. Neither of us had TSA Pre. I thought it was going to be bad since our plane was listed as delayed 15 minutes and a Chicago flight was delayed indefinitely because of bad weather in Chicago but we did leave 15 minutes late and got into Phoenix on time. We couldn't find any breakfast in Phoenix. I got 2 bagels at a Mexican Grill which weren't really bagels - they were more like the Thomas's bread bagels for \$10 with one coffee. The flight to RDU was pretty smooth and I lucked out with the exit row which was great for a cross country trip. The flight was totally full. I had the aisle and Libbie had the center seat. We had a smooth flight until we got into NC where we got into the storm that was raining on the East Coast. It was bumpy for the last 30 minutes but not severe so overall it was a good flight. We got home about 5:30. We had to take a detour down 54 off I-40 because there was an accident up ahead so we got off at the break lights ahead and wound our way through Cary. For dinner we went to La Cocina at 6 where I had the Quesadilla La Cocina with a Yuengling. After the restaurant we went to Kroger and picked up Nyquil for Libbie and also a can of soup and the initial ingredients for my New years snack tomorrow night which is going to be Spicy French Bread pizzas.

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December 31, 2015      home

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It felt good to be home again. Spent some time reorganizing files then copied the pictures from last week to Traviata. Did another Kroger's run for a baguette and misc household items in addition to picking up my prescription. The day was mostly relaxing and it was great to listen to the Met Opera again. I missed that while at Joes. The house is musty again, I ended up opening the crawl door and letting the fan run all day to alleviate the odor. It seems to be working. I need to chop that hole in the wall and mount the fan I bought a few months ago.

Sliced up the baguette while Libbie browned the sausage.

Spread the marinara and sausage on the baguette with mozzarella and put



it into the 450 degree oven for 10 minutes. While this was going on I downloaded an old cult movie from 1994, Spanking the Monkey. I wanted to go to Star Wars with Libbie today at 4 PM but she didn't think that was a great idea so we didn't. Arrived early at the party at 8:53. It was a fun evening. I thought my sausage pizza was a 6 on a 0 to 10 scale but Robert gave it a 3. After a while I agreed. We brought a bottle of Mondavi Cabernet to the party and brought back about 1/3 bottle. I only had one glass. Previously we had some Shiraz with Chinese takeout, 3 meat Szechuan dinner with eggrolls.

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