

Journal Entry –May 11, 2009

At the Big Easy

Hello All, Our Trip is going well.

We spent 3 days in Houston at a lovely RV Park, green lawns, pool, etc. We drove our trusty little truck south to the Houston Space Center, actually about 20 miles south of Houston. We toured the famous space center, known for "Houston, We've got a problem here." I now know it is the communication center between earth and all outer space. We spent the whole day on the tram checking out various buildings and massive rockets and space modules on display. We also spent a day in Galveston, a Texas beach city hit hard by hurricanes and storms. Even on a beautiful warm day, the wind was blowing hard; luckily it was also warm air. The debris from the last storm a couple years ago was still piled up in the front yards and streets of the residential areas. Unlike New Orleans, there is no free federal money for Galveston-- a tough way to live. I always wanted to see the sea wall there and experience the 30 plus miles of Ocean and sand associated with Galveston. The third day there was spend with practical aspects of "being on the road" like doing laundry and stocking up on groceries. We even got the broom out and cleaned up the 26 X 8 ft space we call home for 10 weeks on the road.

After traveling the next afternoon we arrived in New Orleans, the Big Easy. We have had great fun the past 3 days exploring the city and areas affected by Katrina. The city is coming back and looks pretty good at first. Houses and businesses have been reroofed, repainted and repaired. Others have not and are still boarded up or removed to just a vacant lot. We took two Grayline tours to see the city and hurricane areas. We checked out the French Quarter, walked Bourbon Street twice :) and had cocktails at Margaritaville, thanks to Jimmy Buffet. We also took an evening dinner cruise on the last paddleboat on the Mississippi River, the Natchez-- great Dixieland music and jazz band. Another evening we had New Orleans food including red beans and rice, gulf shrimp, jambalaya, catfish and topped off with Mint Julep Tea. For breakfast, we had those crazy square giant donut holes called benyas, topped off with powdered sugar. Our first experience with this food but it was great! A great town with lots of atmosphere for sure! Party time is over tomorrow morning as we head out for a new spot to explore, maybe the houseboat casinos and Biloxi, Miss. This stop is not on our itinerary but a last minute addition for a one night look-see.

That's it for now. The weather has been great! Stay tuned for our next report ...Janice