

Journal Entry – June 6, 2009

Key West, Ft Lauderdale and Kennedy Space Center in Cocoa Beach Area

Hello Friends and Family,

We spend a week on the Florida Keys, hot-sticky-rainy days but it was fun and worth the trip. We took the Conch train. We bought some shells, ate and enjoyed Margaritas at the original Margaritaville and watched the famous sunset at Mallory Square. We enjoyed a great all day tour boat to the Dry Tortuga Is. (68 miles west of Key West) which is where historical Ft Jefferson is located. It is rich in pirate and civil war history and beautiful in beaches and water. There was time on the island to take the tour of the fort, snorkel and spend time enjoying the white sand beach. The tour boat (contracted thru the US Government Parks) provided breakfast and lunch and was quite comfortable. Still in Florida's rainy season we are getting used to rain each day and keep on with our activities pretty much.

After leaving the keys in a huge rainstorm we spend a couple days in Ft Lauderdale and explored the intercoastal waterways. We spent a great afternoon at Lauderdale Beach and then headed to the Space Coast - local jargon for the area near Kennedy Space Center. It was even more meaningful since we had just toured the Johnson Space Center when we were in Houston. We spent an interesting day at the Kennedy Center and saw both launch pads up close and the buildings where the shuttles are stored. Of course people were all excited that the shuttle had just returned from Edwards in Calif. After a big day we just got into the truck to head back to camp when the sky opened up. I have to say that when it rains in Florida, it really rains. Thunder, lightning and several inches of rain down-pouring from one cloudburst.

Today we traveled to St Augustine and while it was raining while driving, it was not too bad. While traveling here we heard on the news that today South Beach in Miami (where we were a couple weeks ago) got about two feet of rain right in the middle of the street where we had driven. Our motor home roof has not leaked yet.... We have turtles and mom n baby ducks in the campground. Of course the baby ducks are just too cute. Tomorrow we will explore old St Augustine, the oldest city in the US. Maybe we'll have time to check out a beach if the weather cooperates. You all notice we visit lots of beaches? Somebody really likes beaches!! I hope all is going well for you - we are having a great time.
Janice