

## NHShorty and BuffaloBill's April 21 – 25, 2013 Trip Report

Day 1, April 21<sup>st</sup>

NHShorty and I blasted out of Manchester on Southwest early Sunday morning. Here's NHShorty in line to get a coffee and a muffin at the Dunkin Donuts in the gate area of MHT. (Time on the clock is 6:30AM)



We had enough of a layover in Baltimore to have a nice sit down breakfast at the Silver Diner, which can be found on Concourse B. Here's NHShorty and all our baggage at the gate in Baltimore. I believe she's checking MK wait times.



The flight from Baltimore to Orlando was uneventful and we were on the ground before noon.

On this trip we rented a car from Avis. This decision was driven by cost and Southwest award points. We experienced an almost intolerable wait in the queue. Not only did it take for-freaking-ever to get to the counter because of all the up-selling going on, but there was an annoying family ahead of us. You know the type, with the oblivious parents and out-of-control children. They were all so dysfunctional that their 3 year old girl actually got out of the door to terminal A while the parents were occupied arguing with each other at the rental counter. Hopefully they all survived their vacation.

Shout out here to DisneyDee27.... Here's a link to a forum thread DD27 started that inspired the next part of our WDW vacation: <http://www.wdwforgrownups.com/forum/port-canaveral-webcam>

Once we finally had the rental car, we headed EAST from MCO on the Beachline Highway to Port Canaveral. After 45 minutes we saw this. (Look at the center of the picture).



Those red and black things are the two funnels of the Disney Dream. The fact that one of the DCL ships was in port on our arrival day was not exactly Disney magic, we knew that the Dream would be there, so we were there too.

Once we got into the port area, we were able to drive up behind the Disney Dream parked at the dock. NHShorty has been on 6 Disney cruises and she wanted to just get on and go.



Here are a few more shots of the parked Disney Dream including a little maintenance activity.



Following our picture taking of the cruise ships at their piers, we headed about third of the way down the length of the port area to Fishlips Waterfront Bar and Grill. The Port Canaveral Webcam ( [www.portcanaveralwebcam.com](http://www.portcanaveralwebcam.com) ) is located high atop Fishlips and it offers a great view of all the comings and goings at the port. We sat out on their upper deck and had a nice healthy afternoon snack of crab cakes, cheese sticks, potato skins and a few adult beverages. Here we are and here is the actual webcam.



Around 4 in the afternoon, the parade of departing cruise ships began and we had a front row seat. The first ship was the Carnival Fantasy. The second picture of the Carnival Fantasy shows the condition of the ship's paint.



The next ship in the parade was the Royal Caribbean Freedom of the Seas. A very nice looking ship with a satellite dish disguised as a giant golf ball.



The last cruise ship parade was the Disney Dream. Absolutely beautiful and it played Disney music as it went by!



NHShorty suggested that we jump into the water because the Dream would have to stop and take us aboard. I am sure they totally would have picked us up and taken us to Castaway Cay, no problem.

Ultimately with tears in our eyes we said goodbye to the Dream and proceeded to buy out the gift shop at Fishlips. We jumped back into the rental car, which we christened the White Streak (pictured below) and headed west to WDW.



After about an hour's drive through pouring rain we were able to snap that traditional picture that shows we are home.



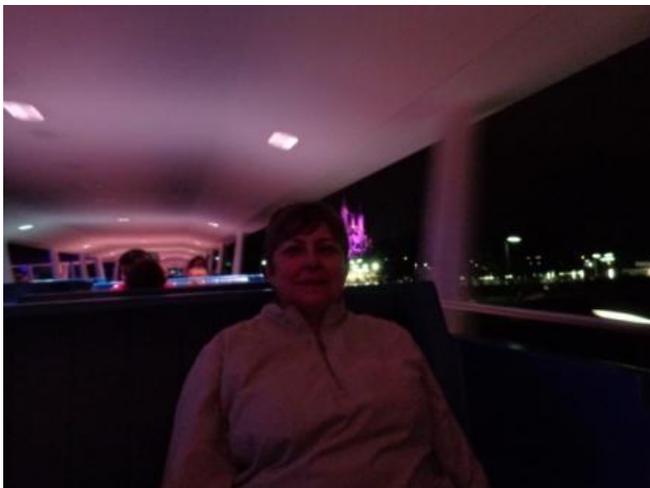
Our check in at the Wilderness Lodge went very smooth and soon we were walking and walking and walking down what appears to be the longest hallway ever to our room. This seems to be some sort of weird tradition. Seriously, we always seem to get the room that is the furthest from the lobby.



We basically dumped our stuff in the room, washed our faces, and headed right out for EMH at the Magic Kingdom. We used the “MrHub & Scrappy/Buffalobill & NHShorty” patented parking move and left the car at the Poly and took the monorail to the MK.

Our first stop was guest services to get my DVC annual pass, which was a very nice 60<sup>th</sup> birthday present from NHShorty. NHShorty had gotten her AP on our last trip in February and we had taken some steps to make sure getting my pass would go smoothly. As it turned out, our preparations were for naught and the whole process was painless and quick. I think it all depends on the CM at guest services.

Anyway, it was 9:30, we were in the MK, it was raining, but we were happy, happy, happy. Our first stop was Cosmic Ray’s for some food that would sustain life followed by a ride on the WEDway People Mover and then the intense competition of Buzz Lightyear's Space Ranger Spin.



All of this was followed by watching Wishes from the walkway between the Hub and Future World where we met NHShorty’s sister and her friend Joe (aka NHSS&FJ)

As you may recall, the primary reason for this particular trip was to support NHShorty's nephew when he marched in the nighttime parade in the Magic Kingdom the next night, Monday April 22nd. NHSS&FJ had arrived in the world earlier in the day and had checked into Saratoga Springs. After the fireworks we went with them to Cosmic Rays and while they ate, I stepped outside and snapped some pictures of the castle being illuminated by various projected scenes.



With everyone fed, we traversed the central hub to Adventure Land and rode Pirates of the Caribbean. A good time was had by all.

We did a few other things, but everyone was exhausted. My last blurry picture of the day was of the castle taken from Main Street at 11:19. We left the MK, took a boat to the Poly, and retrieved the car. We drove NHSS&FJ back to Saratoga Springs and bid them a good night.

NHShorty and I got home to the WL around mid-night and collapsed.