Wednesday 5/30/12

The non-stop Southwest Airlines flight departed Manchester, NH around 6:25 PM and dropped us into the warm Orlando night at 9:25 PM. We picked up the rental car from Advantage and headed to WDW. As an aside, the rental car was a Nissan Sentra and the total rental cost for our four day vacation (with the AAA discount) was \$87. This is almost cheaper than a golf cart at Fort Wilderness. FYI - My auto insurance covers rental cars, so there were no extra fees and we promised to return the car full of gas.

Our first stop inside of WDW was the Hess gas station near Boardwalk to pick up Diet Coke, milk, snacks, and beer (Sam Adam's Boston Lager). This was the first notable difference about this trip; if my kids had been with us, we would have hit the Kissimmee Wal-Mart for \$200+ worth of supplies.



The Ubiquitous picture of the welcome sign taken through a dirty windshield at 60 mph at night.

With the provisions taken care of, our next stop was the Wilderness Lodge. Check in was a breeze. At 10:40 PM there aren't a whole lot of folks checking in or out. In addition to the "Welcome Home" from the security guard and the guys working under the porte-cochere, the front desk cast members sang "Be Our Guest". I think they were bored and/or punchy, but it was nice.



"Be Our Guest"

After the short walk from the front desk to our one bedroom villa, we dropped our bags and headed out in search of something to eat. We drove over to the Boardwalk (NHshorty's old stomping grounds) and went to the ESPN Club.









Our ESPN Club arrival was perfectly timed with the final minutes of the Celtics vs. the Heat game and the kitchen closing. We could only order appetizers, so it was Patriot Clam Chowder for me and Red Wings – Mild for NHshorty. Sorry, no pictures of the food, but everything was adequate for a midnight snack.



We returned to the Wilderness Lodge Villas around midnight with visions of what tomorrow would bring swirling in our heads.



So, how'd we do against our plan? Well, since there was no real plan beyond the flight, the rental car, stopping at Hess, and checking in we did GREAT!