

NHshorty's and BuffaloBill's May 30, 2012 Trip Report – Part V

Saturday 6/2

Here's what our plan was for the day:

Breakfast: Unplanned

Lunch: 50's Primetime Café (dessert: carrot cake at book store)

Dinner: Boardwalk Area (Flying Fish or Brewery)

Mid Morning to Afternoon: Hollywood Studios

Afternoon: Pool & Down Time and/or Hollywood Studios (Parade @ 3) (Fantasmic @9)

Evening: Hollywood Studios

Want to do list:

Hollywood Studios

- Parade
- Carrot cake at bookstore
- Mulch, Sweat, & Shears
- Tower of Terror
- Rock 'n Roller Coaster
- Star Tours
- Muppets
- 50's Prime Time Café
- Brown Derby
- Great Movie Ride
- Fantasmic
- Toy Story Mania

EPCOT

- Caramel in Germany
- Mission Space
- Maelstrom
- American Singers
- ~~— Rose & Crown~~
- ~~— Illuminations~~
- Japan Gardens
- ~~— Cottage in Canada~~

It was a beautiful Saturday morning in the world. The sun was shining, the birds were chirping, all was as it should be. NHshorty was not hungry for breakfast, so while she got ready to head to Hollywood Studios, I made some tea and ate the remaining food from yesterday's trip to Roaring Forks inside the WL. Don't get drool on your keyboards, all you foodies out there.



The cereal was rice crispies, the banana was from Chiquita, and the tea was Tetley with a little 2% Hood milk. Also pictured are my cell phone, the book I was reading ([The Night Manager](#) by John le Carré), and the docking station for NHshorty's high tech pedometer.

Once we were all ready to, it was a short ride from the WL to the HS. As you can see from the following pictures, at 10:30 neither the weather nor the crowds were an issue.





I should discuss the crowds on this particular day at the Hollywood Studios. It was a Star Wars Weekend and if you are not prepared to see sights like ones below, you are going to be in for very mystifying day. I wish I'd taken a picture of her shoes, I am sure that they would have been considered stupid here on earth.





From the entrance, we walked up Hollywood Boulevard to the hat and took a left and grabbed Fastpasses for Star Tours. From there it was a short walk to go see the Muppets. We've done this a zillion times, but it's just plain fun. This is the first time I've taken the time to get a picture of the key under the mat. It is seriously glued down, so it's still there.



Even the Muppet Store was stocked with Star Wars items. Here is a collection of hats that NHshorty thinks would look swell on her new grandson. (The baby's daddy is a member of the 501st Legion (aka Vader's Fist) Storm Troopers with complete uniform and helmet).



After a short time in the store, NHshorty, who as you remember, had elected to skip the most important meal of the day, got that look.... You young guys better know what that look means. As the Randy Newman song goes: *"She may be hungry, but she won't say. But you better get a burger or something in her right away. If you don't you're going to pay at the hands of the one you love."* So it was off to the old "Buy the Book" now "The Writer's Stop" to purchase some goodies.



On the left is a carrot cake whoopee pie with cream cheese filling and on the right is a Mickey lemon sugar cookie.

With everyone feeling better and energized, we headed back to Star Tours. The Fastpass lane was empty and we walked right on to the ride. The new and improved Star Tours is exactly that, new and improved. First noticeable change is the requirement for 3D glasses. I really liked mine.



The second noticeable change is the pre-flight movie. While it contains the same basic information as the old movie, there's more of a Star Wars component to it. I do miss Jenifer Lewis who was the woman in the original pre-flight movie. Anyway, we were seated in the middle row, which is probably the worst row to experience the ride due to minimal vertical travel distance (the front and back rows have the maximum travel distance vertically). The ride's story now varies from ride-to-ride and with C3PO at the controls it has more of a Star Wars feel. We both liked this ride very much and it stays on the must-do list for Hollywood Studios.

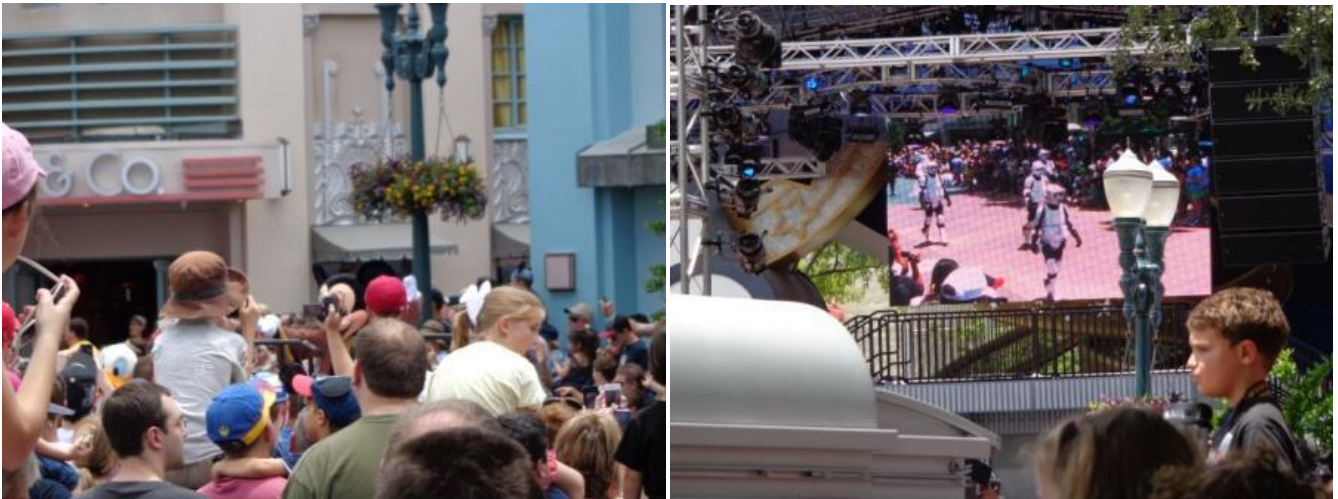
Following Star Tours it was back to the hat and down Sunset Boulevard to get Fastpasses for the TOT.



After obtaining the Fastpasses, NHshorty hit Hollywood Scoops for some strawberry ice cream, which she gladly shared.



With ice creams in hands, we wandered down Sunset Boulevard and watched the Star Wars Parade from the area behind the "Tip Board".



As you can see from these pictures, the crowd as very dense, so it was easier just to turn 90° to the right and watch the whole parade on the jumbo screen under the hat. After watching most of the parade, we returned to the TOT and RRC area and used our TOT Fastpasses.

Before riding TOT, we went down to RRC to see how long the single-rider line was. There was no one in line! NHshorty experienced RRC for the first (and apparently last) time a couple of trips ago and she knows it's on the top of my ride list for HS. So she went off in search of a good ice coffee while I took advantage of empty line and rode RRC alone. As luck would have it I was assigned a seat with three people who had no clue what the RRC was. They asked if I had been on it before and if I had any advice. I told them to hang on and keep their heads back. Everyone survived.

Once reunited with NHshorty in the RRC courtyard we returned to TOT. The end of Fastpass return line was in the lobby, and we were almost immediately ushered into the library. I did not observe any changes to TOT since our last trip.

Here's the ride picture I ripped off by snapping the monitor screen. The girls sitting next to us had never been on TOT before and were totally unprepared. Luckily there were no unfortunate bio- accidents.



It was around 2:00 when we got out of TOT and we were feeling brave, so we wandered back towards the hat area to take our chances and get on the most extreme, puke your guts out scream-machine at HS, The Great Movie Ride. Along the way we saw Jake Lloyd, who played young Anakin Skywalker (aka little Darth) in Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace.



Since we could not sense any disturbance in the force while in proximity to Ani, we continued our journey to Grauman's Chinese Theatre. Once again, the wait was minimal and we were treated to the "gangster" version of the ride.

After risking our life and limb on The Great Movie Ride, we needed to calm down and chill out a bit, so we returned to StarTours. This time, without Fastpasses, we walked right on again and we were given seats in the back row. As expected, the ride quality and the film were different from our earlier ride. The beginning and end of the film were the same, but the middle was quite different. We are going to have to hit this ride multiple times in future visits. Darn.

Now that we are all mellowed out, we headed to the Prime Time Café for a late lunch/early dinner. Of course, showing up without an ADR meant we had to wait a spell. This didn't bother us one bit because we could wait in the Tune In Lounge, which is our favorite lounge in HS. NHshorty and I really like the mid-century décor, the cold beer, and the general funkiness of the place. After an enjoyable, but short wait, we were shown to our table in the Prime Time Café. Our server was Cousin Marge (or something like that. I lost the receipt so I don't know who she was) was great.

NHshorty and I both started with Cousin Amy's Iceberg Lettuce Wedge - Blue Cheese Dressing, Bacon, and Chives.



NHshorty ordered the Spaghetti and Vegetarian "Meatballs" - Multigrain Spaghetti and Vegetarian Meatballs with Dad's Marinara Sauce.



I like the design on the plate edge and the Formica table top.

I was really torn between ordering the Meat Loaf or the Fried Chicken dishes, but my dilemma was solved by ordering A Sampling of Mom's Favorite Recipes Crispy-fried Chicken, Tender Pot Roast, and Traditional Meatloaf with all the fixings.



Along with the 50's inspired design details, including the dishes and table-tops, the Atomic curtains are a great touch.

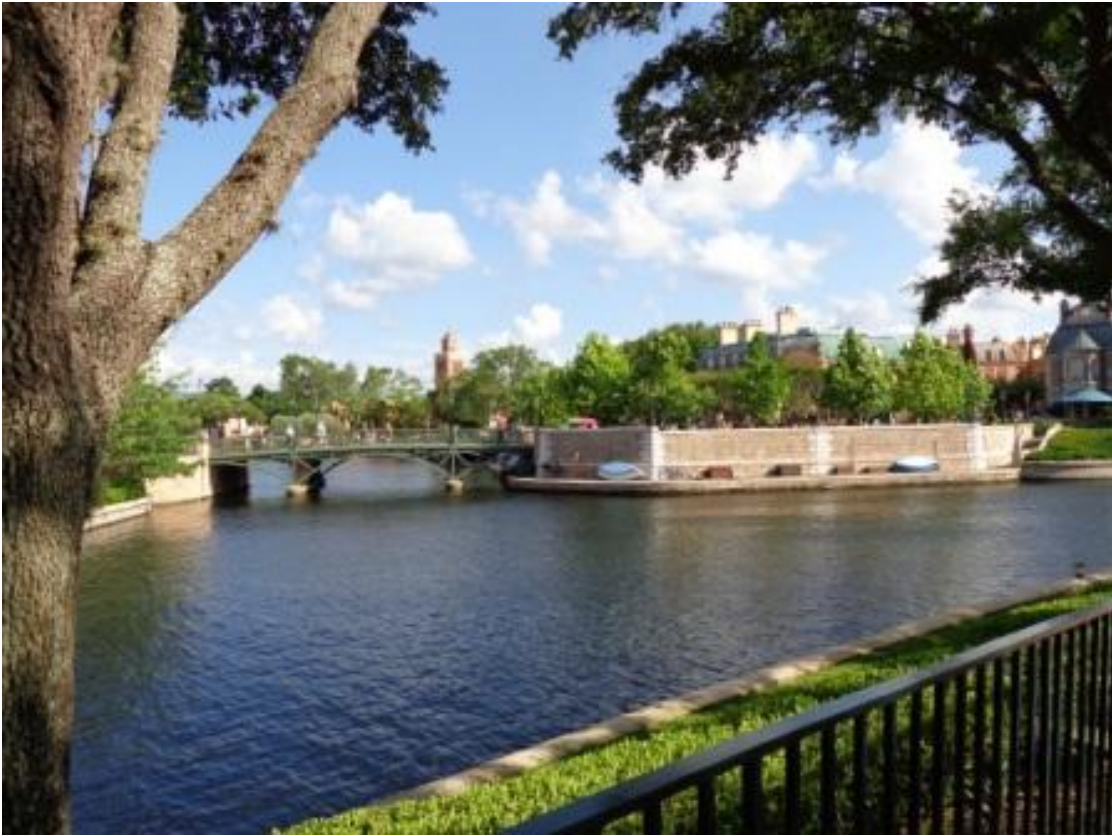


We could not help to put our elbow on the table. Cousin Marge was not happy.

We skipped dessert, settled our \$75 tab (I lost the receipt, so I checked my credit card bill) and headed to the front gate for a boat ride to EPCOT.



I know that some folks like taking the boat ride, but the numerous stops at Boardwalk and the Swan/Dolphin really make me feel antsy, plus the boats are not air conditioned. I think that if your feet are feeling up to it, walking the route would be faster. Regardless, here are a couple of potentially artistic photos taken from the International Gateway.



From the International Gateway, we strolled past France, posed for some pictures with the torii of Itsukushima Shrine in front of the Japanese Pavilion.



We continued our promenade around the World Showcase Lagoon with brief stops at The American Adventure and Italy before purchasing our dessert in Germany. This is a vanilla cupcake with vanilla frosting with caramel drizzled on top.



With our dessert and cupcake needs taken care of for the moment, we proceeded to the Norway Pavilion to tour the Stave Church and ride the Maelstrom. This ride was another first for NHshorty, but we did not stay for the movie. As a reward for braving the Maelstrom, NHshorty was made an honorary Viking queen.



(The payback for including this picture will be two pictures of me with funny hats coming up soon)

Leaving the quiet of Norway behind, we continued our trek around the World Showcase into Future World proceeding to Mission Space. Without Fastpasses we walked on to the Orange (aka the intense) version of the ride. NHshorty and I have done this ride a bazillion times and really love it. There was no line outside, so after our first ride, we immediately re-entered and rode it again with only the two of us in the “cabin”. As usual, we suffered no ill effects from back-to-back rides on the intense version of Mission Space.

From Mission Space it was a short walk to Spaceship Earth. The line was practically not there, so it was another walk-on. At the start of the ride we answered the questions on our car’s computer screen, smiled for our picture, and sat back to enjoy the ride.



After Spaceship Earth, we hit Mouse Gears to get some stuff for the folks we left behind in NH and strolled hand-in-hand back to the International Gateway. From the Gateway, we took the boat back to HS.

Re-entry to HS was without difficulty and we headed directly to TOT for ride #2. Again, without a Fastpass, the wait was minimal and the ride with very good. NHshorty found some cool Mickey Ears in the TOT gift shop. Here I am trying to give a TOT CM stern look while looking like an idiot.



Funny hat payback picture #1

We drifted around the corner from TOT to see what the lines looked like for RRC. Once again, the single rider line was empty, so I made a run (litterally) for the door to G-Force Records. I made a new observation about using the single rider line during at night time. Most of the people waiting in the regular line are couples or small even-numbered groups. The opportunities for singles to ride were few and far between. My wait was about 20 minutes before I could get on the RRC.

By this time Fantasmic had already started, and we were pretty tired, so we headed back down Hollywood Boulevard and hit a few of the shops. Here I am trying on a combination Yoda and Mickey ears hat. Payback is a female dog in heat.



Funny hat payback picture #2

We continued out the gate and with tears in our eyes we drove from HS to the WL without incident.

But our day didn't end there! NHshorty and I visited the Territory Lounge for a late night snack and beverage. Now this lounge is usually empty. In fact we were the only folks in the place for a short while, but a boat and/or bus full of folks came in and livened the joint right up. I went down stairs and purchased a flat bread pizza at Roaring Forks and brought it back to the Territory Lounge. It was a pretty good way to close down a terrific day at our favorite parks.

So, that was a 2 park day. How did we do against our plan?:

Breakfast: Unplanned - **Did it – very difficult to accomplish this!**

Lunch: 50's Primetime Café (dessert: carrot cake at book store) - **Did it!**

Dinner: Boardwalk Area (Flying Fish or Brewery) – **Nope**

Mid Morning to Afternoon: Hollywood Studios - **Did it!**

Afternoon: Pool & Down Time and/or Hollywood Studios (Parade @ 3) (Fantasmic @9) – **Almost did it!**

Evening: Hollywood Studios - **Did it!**

Hollywood Studios

- Parade- **Saw one of them!**
- Carrot cake at bookstore- **Did it!**
- Mulch, Sweat, & Shears– **Nope**
- Tower of Terror- **Did it twice!**
- Rock 'n Roller Coaster- **Did it twice!**
- Star Tours- **Did it twice!**
- Muppets- **Did it!**
- 50's Prime Time Café- **Did it!**
- Brown Derby– **Nope**
- Great Movie Ride- **Did it!**
- Fantasmic– **Nope**
- Toy Story Mania– **Nope**

EPCOT

- Caramel in Germany- **Did it!**
- Mission Space- **Did it twice!**
- Maelstrom- **Did it!**
- American Singers– **Nope**
- ~~Rose & Crown~~
- ~~Illuminations~~
- Japan Gardens– **Nope**
- ~~Cottage in Canada~~

NHshorty's pedometer said she did 9.72 miles this day. Just think of how much walking you've done at WDW. This is why you can eat anything you want at WDW and not gain a pound while you are there. Given a little more time, I could probably prove that you actually lose weight while you are in Disney World, but that due to random perturbations in the earth's gravitational field in regions north of Orlando... Well, you get the drift.

Stay tuned for the final installment of NHshorty's and Buffalobill's May 30, 2012 Trip Report in a couple of days.