

**5/1/13 Day 115-Ft. Lauderdale–Home -Luggage Arrives-Goodbye:** Somehow we knew it was going to turn out this way! May 1<sup>st</sup> and Day 115 of the World Voyage had finally arrived. The Amsterdam eased into Port Everglades in Ft. Lauderdale at first light of day. We had our last breakfast in the LIDO and said our goodbyes to table mates and other friends who we had lived with during the voyage. There were real mixed emotions as we sadly said goodbye but we were also looking forward to getting back home after being gone so long.

We had signed up for early exit from the ship and we were ready to go when our “Green 2” code was called and we could leave the Amsterdam about 9am. The Holland America folks had really done a great job of organizing the disembarkation process. Our luggage was in the cruise terminal and it had been laid out in small clusters in accordance with our exit code (Green 2). It was easy to find the 5 bags we had put outside our stateroom last night. Porters were readily available and soon the luggage was loaded onto a trolley and we were on our way. First we had to present our US Customs declaration and passports to the federal agents who processed the documents quickly then we went to the nearby Federal Express truck and the energetic people there whisked our 4 shipped bags away. We were then left with one bag to check at the airport and our carry-on luggage. The Porter got us quickly to a taxi and we were soon checking in to our US Airways flight at the Ft. Lauderdale airport. The TSA Security People were super patient as they coached Orlin on giving up all the sundry items distributed in his clothing that must be put through the x-ray machine.

Our flights to Knoxville went well and we arrived about 5:30pm. Steve had come down to pick us up and got this photo of the well worn travelers returning home.



On the way to Oak Ridge from the airport we found ourselves still in World Voyage mode when we snapped a picture of gasoline prices at a local gas station, as shown on the right. Hey, no need for conversion arithmetic the price was simply \$3.169 USD per gallon. Happily that is about half the price we have seen in many places we have visited.



Steve first took us to his place where we had a reunion with Becky and the grandkids, Andrew and Emily. We had a joyous session of catching



up on what everyone had been doing, including a video of a recent award winning dance performance by Emily and her dance class members in Chattanooga. After consuming a couple pizzas we gathered on the porch for a coming-home picture, shown on the left.

Steve then took us to our home, about a 5 minute drive. It felt a little strange walking in the door after being gone so long.

However, the place was in great shape and after a few minutes it was like we had never left.



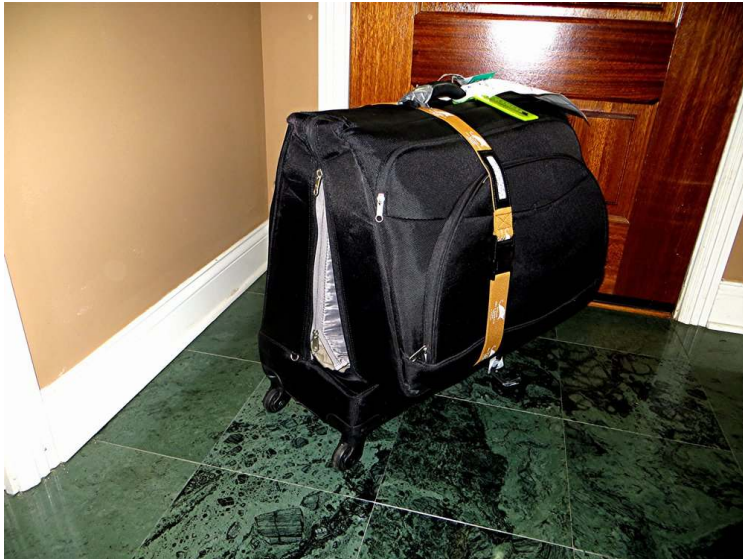
On Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, Scott came by to welcome us back in town and talk about the places we had been. He had given us a list of interesting items we should be looking for as we traveled. We told him of success for some of the exotica but we never had an opportunity to obtain a shrunken head. In any event all of that stuff was in our Federal Express shipment which had not yet arrived.



A family party is planned for Sunday where we can celebrate all the birthdays and special events that took place while we were sailing around the world.

On Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, the FedEx truck pulled into the driveway about 11am. The enthusiastic driver announced himself and proceeded to unload our suitcases from the truck, as shown on the left. We thanked him for the prompt delivery of the bags and he was then on his way.

We had debated about using luggage straps on the suitcases when we packed them. We decided to use the luggage straps and that turned out to be a good decision in the case of our suit bag which was overstuffed to the point that the zippers failed during shipment, as shown on the right. If it had not been for the luggage strap the suit bag would have sprung wide open. As it turned out, nothing was lost in this unscheduled opening.



With a great deal of excitement Barbara went about the task of unpacking the luggage that had just arrived. Within a short while it was determined that all the treasures we had accumulated on the World Voyage had arrived in good shape. What a relief!

The arrival of the luggage shipment from the 2013 World Voyage brought closure for us. Accordingly, this will be our last journal entry for the 2013 World Voyage. We hope that some of the fun and education we have experienced was communicated in these journal writings. The foreign shores and people we have met have certainly enriched our lives. If readers have questions or comments we can be reached by email at

[orlinbarbara at bellsouth.net](mailto:orlinbarbara@bellsouth.net) .

In recognition of this journal goodbye event we retired to our deck and lifted a toast to family, friends and interested readers wherever they may be.

**Cheers!**

**Orlin and Barbara**

