

Now it is 6:15 AM, Friday, February 1st. NHshorty and I head to the airport and have a secure airport breakfast. As usual SWA has their act together and we are wheels up exactly on time.



The flight was uneventful and because we didn't have any checked baggage, we were at the E-Z Rent counter within minutes of landing, texting Mrhub, and saying "Bub-bye" to the cabin staff. A quick trip through the two toll booths between MCO and WDW and before we knew it we were zipping through the MK parking entrance to head to the Wilderness Lodge.





We had to wait a little for our "Welcome home", but it was worth it.



NHshorty had checked us in on-line and had the desk staff find a villa that was already ready.



Of course Mouse-keeping had left a towel mouse to greet us.

The room was the mirror image on the one we had in May last year. There are a bunch of pictures of the interior of the room in our May 2012 trip report.

The DVC villas are in a separate building from the Wilderness Lodge. Our villa was on the first floor facing a wooded area and had small “patios” off the bedroom and the “living” room.



NHshorty literally threw her bag into the room while I changed into some stylish shorts and took the exterior pictures.

I don't know what it is, but getting up early, flying for 3 hours, renting a car, driving to the world, and checking in gave us a powerful hunger. So before heading to the MK and meeting up with Mrhub and Scrappy we hit Whispering Canyon for some vittles and adult beverages.



NHshorty had the tuna melt and I had a chicken breast sandwich. Note the ketchup bottles that were delivered by a bunch of kids when I asked for ketchup for my fries. A server we had from our May trip, MT Wallet, was there as well. Again, see our May trip report to learn more about MT.

As soon as lunch was over we jumped in the rental car and headed to our rendezvous with the infamous Mrhub and Scappy who were over at the MK.

I should say something here about our rental wheels.... Our rental car was epically small. In keeping with the low cost nature of our WDW weekend, I had rented the cheapest thing I could find. I named it the blue-streak. We could have easily have kept it in our room.



We had planned to park the blue-streak at the Poly and take the monorail to the MK to shorten the trip from the WL. As proof that great minds think alike, while we were in route, Mrhub texted me to suggest leaving the car at the Poly and taking the monorail. Don't tell WDW security about this little deception, but that's how we WDW veterans roll.



As you can see from the above picture, it was raining cats and dogs when we got to the MK. Getting in the park was a breeze. NHshorty had a partially used up 10 day hopper and I used a cast member pass donated by NHshort's niece who worked on Epic Mickey I and II for Disney.



It was three o'clock as we hit the town square and the cast members were so happy to see us they spontaneously started to have a parade just for us. We graciously waved to Mickey and skirted around the edges of the square acknowledging the many people who had come to the Magic Kingdom to witness the historic meeting between Mrhub & Scrapy and NHshorty & Buffalobill.

True to their word, Mrhub and Scrapy were waiting for us at the Confectioners on Main Street. Here is the only photographic evidence of our historic meeting. Note the balloon over Scrapy's left shoulder with her real name. I am assuming that the pirate behind me was there for crowd control.



As Mrhub reported in his excellent trip report, our meeting was brief, but it was one of the highlights of our trip. It was like we had known each other for a long time. I am sure you can see from the picture why Disney security really searches our bags thoroughly, checks our ID's carefully, and generally keeps an eye on us. Yeah, we bad, you had better watch out. Middle aged white guys in shorts are nothing but trouble.

Mrhub and Scrappy presented us with two fast passes to Buzz Lightyear and they headed off to finish packing. NHshorty and I walked up Main Street and asked complete strangers to take our picture.



We were able to use the fast passes almost immediately and racked up some very good scores.



Following our success with Buzz, we wandered around and around the new Fantasy Land. Here are some pictures we snapped inside the Big Top and around Gaston's Tavern. Cup Cake and Smores lovers should grab a napkin now.



From Fantasy Land we hit the Tikki Tikki Tikki Tikki Tikki Room and Pirates of the Caribbean. Only the mermaid skeleton was observed. We went back to the castle to try to get on the newest ride in Fantasy Land....



Cinderella's Crane.

Unfortunately, it was a soft opening and the ride was giving the operators so much trouble they were wearing hard hats. So we moved inside the castle to add our NH germs to the slipper.



Look closely, I have cropped and positioned two pictures (each containing one of us) to give the illusion that we are touching the slipper at the same time. This is a very busy passageway, so you need to be real quick on the shutter release.

Back at the hub in front of the castle I took some potentially artsy photos.



Dinner on Friday night was at Tony's. Mrhub and I discussed the less-than-positive reviews Tony's had gotten recently. Mrhub and Scrappy said they enjoyed their meal there earlier in the week and NHshorty and I enjoyed ours tonight. My only advice is that if the food delivered to you doesn't meet your expectations, let the staff know and they will try to make it right.

Here are a couple of snaps taken at Tony's.



We left Tony's around 9:30 Friday night with really excellent plans to head over to EPCOT and close the joint. Alas, we got as far as the Blue Streak at the Poly and decided to head to the MK Hess gas station, pick up some beverages, milk, and snacks and go back to WL to rest up for Saturday.
