

FLORIDA

FLOWERS

LIVE OAK TREES

OCEAN WAVES

RODEDENDRONS

WHITE SAND BEACHES

DOGS

ALLIGATORS



Baldino's view !

Florida AGAIN!

Holiday DAY One-Two Kelowna to Tampa to Tallahassee Florida

April 1-2/08 Tuesday -Wednesday D by Plane total 0 km

THANKYOU THANKYOU TO GOOD FRIENDS!

Temp Wonderfully warm 80F in Tampa Everyone in summer gear. I hope this is a sign of days to come!

Road Condition great, but only seen from the bus

Food: Not much... the bus only stops for 10min at gas stations with "Chester Chicken" greasy spoons.... Snacked and slept a lot of the way

Accommodation Arrived at our destination after flying from Kelowna to Calgary with a brief stop over. Jessie brought Mom out to visit and have lunch at the airport. Was great to see her as it's been since summer 07.



We then flew to Chicago and Tampa where they lost our box of bike tires in Chicago. We stayed in Tampa overnight, but still no tires so bused to Tallahassee. Everything is really green. The azaleas are in bloom and they are cutting the grass already. Lots of Motor homes on the road too. Mark picked us up at the depot and off to their home in Tallahassee to do some shopping, pick up the bikes and wait for the box to arrive. It's fun to see their yard in spring as much greener than was in late November. Had a thundershower, which is needed, as they haven't had any rain recently.



Overall : Good flights. I just wish the airlines could get their act together. We have heard this all winter, clients arriving with no skis, Keith and Julie arrived with none of their 4 bags, one being Teague's car seat! We are going to Baldino's cottage on the Gulf of Mexico for a couple of days and then off on the road again. Missing the last few days of skiing, but you know it is worth it! Kind of weird not to have packed our gear prior to leaving

Holiday Day Three April 3 St George's Island, Florida

Still no cycling! Mark drove us to the beach house, as the box didn't arrive until after 5pm. All intact so off we went last night and what a nice country drive, was dark by the time we reached the shore so missed the ocean first view. We spent today on the beach in the sun, warm ocean and my first ocean kayaking! The dolphins are so cool. One came right up beside my craft... kind of scary. I guess I was supposed to reach out and touch it! NOT!

Lots of friends over with some great kids. Football games and just great beach fun. John Howard got a sunburn. His first in 13 years. He is on acne treatment and that makes the skin sensitive to the sun. He said his feet and hands "are on fire!" Ken and I got a bit too much sun, but I think it will pass. Just a great day on sugar white sand beach as far as one can see. Million \$ homes line the beach with no one there. Kind of the opposite season to the ski hill.

Susan made us a great supper after one of the most fabulous after ski days I've had in a long time! Jaime {John Howard's tutor and friend} and brother Jason were up for the day. This is one great family.

Ken put the new tires on and generally fiddled with the bike. We repacked our gear to discover he had taken his long underwear home and all his socks!OOOPS! Walmart here we come!



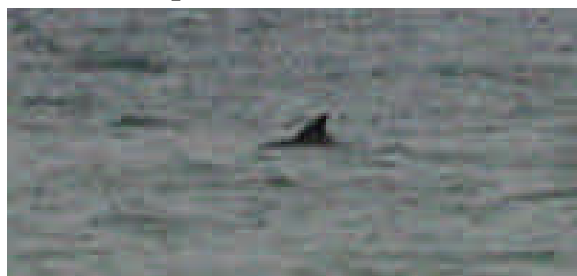
Holiday Day Four April 4th St George's Island

JH and Mark went fishing for the day with the same kids as yesterday. No fish arrived home although a couple of catfish were landed and returned to the sea. Ken, Susan and I spent a lazy day cycling along to the "cut" which is the boat way between Little George and St George Islands. Not a sunny day but warm. Swimming and reading on the beach. Tippy [family Dog] likes walks on the beach and anyone that will pet her. JH loves to just lay in the surf and let the waves crash into him. Sand in every orifice. Went riding bikes again to test Ken's tube/tire changes. Went out for supper to Apalachicola which is a port town where the shrimp boats were the major employment, where as tourism is now. Would be neat to see all the museums in this town... for another trip. This has been a great 2 days with the Baldinos at the "Beach House". I thought Big White was paradise, but this is another equally as beautiful a place.

D 21.24k M 25.1 A 14.5 T 1h27 total 21.24 km start to trip



Pelican fly by



Dolphins just off shore



Boys on the beach



John Howard at the beach house



Kayaking at St George's Island



Water Babe'



The “Cut “ between Little St George and St George Island’s: Susan and Ken



Boys going for a cycle



Mark, John Howard and Susan Baldino with Tippi

DAY One Cycling Baldino's cottage to Mexico Beach, Florida

April 5/08 Saturday D 80.58 km M 39.4 A 16.5 T 4.5h TT 5.75h total 101.83 km

Wind yes from the left side and front on

Temp 25C down to 20C

Road Condition great other than I hated the Bryant Grady Patton Bridge due to the wind trying to blow me over the guard rail.

Food: Breakfast Susan made pancakes and fruit great start to the day

Lunch PB bagels at the Box B fish and Wild life station

Supper Veggie soup [boiler used] and tomato sands

Accommodation Rustic Sands Resort CG cabin \$65.70

Overall : Well the day started off great with warm sundry out our shoes! and brisk wind from off the ocean. We saw our first

and second dead raccoon on the side.... Thought maybe they wouldn't be in this area! Also a 3 ft long black 1" diameter SNAKE wiggled across in front of me! I was glad not to have run over him! We made good time. The Hwy 98 has a good shoulder of about 3 ft and then 7ft on the bridges which was really nice. Was getting darker and darker as we left Apalachicola's Piggly Wiggly grocery store. The Dixie Motel was just out of town and we passed it by as thought to early to stop. Next....Thunder and pouring rain.... Drenching pouring rain for about 1 hour. My shoes were floating with water in a few minutes. A fellow in a truck stopped to offer us a ride but we were so wet and almost at Mexico Beach so we just continued on. Arrived at the CG and we were very lucky to get a cabin. Gear in dry bags dry, but we were not looking forward to tenting tonight. Not sure if another hotel. Time changed so we have an extra hour today. Thunder and rain continued all afternoon. We were so wet we washed our clothes which we were able to wring out! This is a nice campground with pool and games rooms. The ground is all sand so floating in puddles. Overall a good first day. Cabin nothing to write home about, but dry. Had air conditioner on and heat in BR to

DAY 1 Baldino's Cottage (St.George Island FL) to Rustic Sands Resort Cg and Cabins (Mexico Beach FL) 80.0 KM

Turn right to stay on Forsythia Ct - Then right at Forsythia Trail	0.3 km	0.3 km
Turn right at Leisure Ln	1.3 km	1.6 km
Slight right to stay on Leisure Ln	1.7 km	3.3 km
Continue on W Gulf Beach Dr	3.4 km	6.7 km
Turn left at Franklin Blvd	0.6 km	7.3 km
Continue on Bryant Grady Patton Bridge [this is a long long bridge!]	7.4 km	14.7 km
Slight left at CR-655 [no shoulder]	1.7 km	16.4 km
Turn left at US-319/US-98 good shoulder	8.6 km	25.0 km
Turn left at US-98 Apalachicola has Piggly Wiggly @65km	52.7 km	77.7 km
Turn right at Hwy 386/SR-386 Port St. Joe AS	1.7 km	79.4 km
Turn left at 15th St	0.6 km	80.0 km

Rustic Sands Resort CG (850) 648-5229 800 15th St, Port St Joe, FL 32456



the offensive wet ramp I fell on! Leaving our cabin

DAY Two Cycling Mexico Beach to Peach Creek Rv Pk Santa Rosa Beach, FL

April 6/08 Sunday D 94.38 km M31.5 A 17.7 T5h19 TT 6h20 total 196.21km

Wind None @ 25C all day Started out with a thunderstorm; held off until later another and then cleared by evening

Temp 25C

Road Condition Great shoulder all but 16 km - even had signs for cars to yield to cycles on right turns. Flat & smooth

Food: Breakfast Apples, yogurt and cheese [Ken]

Lunch coffee stop while it rained at Bingo Hall...pb bagels later

Supper soup and bagels and a beer [used the little boiler once more]

Accommodation Peach Creek RV Pk is very basic for \$25 showers are included and it is clean, but the water is foul tasting Mosquitoes are singing at the door!

Overall : day started off not so good as thundering and pouring rain at 7am . Decided to head out at 8am and I fell on the slippery w/c ramp of our cottage. Wacked my left arm good and was glad to have on my helmet our might have had a really sore head.

Cycled along with minimal rain drops first 25km to Tyndall Airforce base. Thru the forest most of the way. No towns. At Parker [32km] started to pour and we stopped at a Bingo Hall just opening up for the day at 10am Sunday morning. I guess this is what the rest of the population does. Had a snack. The building was a little scary as the roof was leaking ++. There is a church on every corner of all denominations. This is really the bible belt. Rain layed off so we continued on with no shoulder now until Panama City at 48km a nice bike lane started with indications for cars turning right to yield to cyclists. Traffic surprisingly light. The bridge from Panama City to Panama City Beach has a nice sidewalk [also large shoulder covered in glass etc]. Had a short lunch on a bridge to a new development as picnic tables and parks not seen. Could have gone hwy 30A along the big hotels on the beach... might have seen some views hard to say. This area is more commercialized than others we have seen. Continued on to destination. Easy day. Humidity 99% and 25C still at 1800. First night in the "Little Blue Northface home" First year I haven't resealed it... might find out tonight if she needs it! Hope not! Ken went for some chips and beer. He said the Publix 1 mile down the road had a lot of very affluent people about.

DAY 2 Rustic Sands Resort CG (Mexico Beach FL) to Peach Creek Rv Park (Santa Rosa Beach, FL) 95.2 KM

Head northwest on 15th St toward Arizona Dr	1.4 km	1.4 km
Turn right at SR-30/US-98 Continue to follow US-98 Publix in Laguna Beach (AS) @74k	93.1 km	94. km
Rt into Peach Creek Rv Park (850) 231-1948 4401 Us-98 E, Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459	0.7 km	95 km



Peach Creek Camp site

Santa Rosa Beach to Magnolia Beach CG, Navarre Florida

April 7/08 Monday D 69.37 km M30.3 A 16.1 T4h18 TT7h15 total 265.58 km

Wind very little

Temp warm 20C in am with FOG; 25C @ 5pm

Road Condition Good shoulder except in Destin where they had roughed it for resurfacing and left it rough. Lots of traffic but shoulder wide enough for us

Food: Breakfast Apples, yogurt and cheese [Ken]

Lunch pb bagels at the beach

Supper veggie nuggets and mashed potatoes with Kelly kettle.... Good!

Accommodation Magnolia Beach CG is full of old hippies.... I thought they were all in Canada. Great site just needs a handy man

Overall Slept ok, but I didn't get out my sleeping bag as it was so warm at bed time, so I snatched Ken's blanket in the night! Left at 0815 into the fog.... Think it can be dim at Big White.... This was weird put on our red blinkers!

Cleared after 1 hour and we continued on to Destin McD's for coffee stop. Has Wifi, but pay by hour so will investigate buying a card. Went on to the Walmart as Ken had left a few items ie socks at home! Continued on to see the Choctawhatchee Bay brilliant blue water apparently due to the tide coming in. Ken dropped the computer bag off his bike as not secured right.... OOPS. No harm done it seems. Stopped for lunch along the bay. Sand just as white as at the Baldino's. Tried to go for a dip but I walked out and out and it never got past my knees! Was warm and clean. We went on to Magnolia CG... needs a face lift, but really friendly people so we stayed. We are 2 days ahead of plans so no rush. Sunburn is blistering so I expect to peel... stopped the antibiotics so hopefully no more burns.



DAY 3 Peach Creek Rv Park (Santa Rosa Beach, FL)to Magnolia Beach CG (Navarre, FL) 69.3 KM

Head out Rt on Hwy 98 Walmart in DESTIN	33.5 km	33.5 km
WinnDixie in Destin Publix in Fort Walton Beach	22 km	55 km
Turn left into Magnolia Beach CG	0.1 km	69.3 km
WinnDixie in Navarre about 5km past CG		

Navarre Beach Campground (850) 939-2188 9201 Navarre Pky, Navarre, FL 32566 navbeach.com

Emerald Beach Rv Park(Good Sam) (850) 939-3431 8885 Navarre Pky, Navarre, FL 32566 emeraldbeachrvpark.com



Magnolia Beach Campground (850) 939-2717 9807 Navarre Pky, C 32566

site right on the ocean side.

DAY Four Magnolia Beach CG, Navarre to Big Lagoon State Park, Pensacola FL

April 8/08 Tuesday D 70.98 km M30.5 A 17 T4h11 TT6h total 336.57 km

Wind very little; was from the side and behind

Temp cooler 18 C then dropped to 16C with a low cloud in am almost raining; 25C @ 6pm but is cloudy

Road Condition Good shoulder all the way thru Pensacola [Naval Base her: lots of low flying jets, etc]

Food: Breakfast Apples, yogurt and cheese [Ken]

Lunch pb/jam bagels at the info center I Pensacola

Supper veggie soup... Ken is perfecting it!

Accommodation Well decided to phone Heritage Oak RV in Pensacola.... Oh oh don't take tents! Decided to go on to the state park which is full but for 2 sites! Spring break for this area. Who would think they are such campers. Lots of tenters too.

Overall All day was past all kinds of shops [Home Depot, surf shops, car dealers....] as soon as we went over the Long Long bridge into Pensacola the price of the housing seemed to drop dramatically. We were soon to find out that the Naval Air base flies LOW LOW jets just above the trees. Was a good day starting at 0830. Not one hill! I think we are lucky to be breaking into it slowly. Ken went in for a dip in the Lagoon.... To smelly for me. We saw an ALLIGATOR swimming on the way to the shore! Somehow we don't think they are like bears... they

don't come up into the campsites.... Or so we think they don't!



Peaking Alligator !

DAY 4 Magnolia Beach CG (Navarre, FL) to Big Lagoon State Park 71km

Turn left at Navarre Pkwy/US-98 W Continue to follow US-98 W Pensacola AS	42.5 km	42.5 km
Turn right at N 17th Ave (just across Pensacola Bay Bridge) Visitors Center	0.4 km	42.9 km
Turn left and go back to hiway	0.4 km	43.3 km
Turn left at N 14th Ave	0.2 km	43.5 km
On Sidewalk for 1 Block(one way wrong way)	0.1 km	43.6 km
Turn right at Bayfront Pkwy	1.6 km	45.2 km
Continue on E Main St [Bike shop at 50km]	2.8 km	48.0 km
Turn left at Barrancas Ave [numerous groceries: Food World at 52.7k]	4.6 km	52.6 km
Continue on SR-292	1.6 km	54.2 km
Big Lagoon State Rec Area CG	17km	71km

Heritage Oaks RV Park (850) 455-8737 1523 Gulf Beach Hwy, Pensacola, FL 32507 heritageoaksvp.com NO TENTS
17 KM further on 292 is Big Lagoon State Rec Area CGParks & Recreation (850) 492-1595 12301 Gulf Beach Hwy, Pensacola, FL 32507



Palm Trees everywhere



Entrance to State Pk ? flags Ken setting up our site



DAY Five Big Lagoon Park, Pensacola FL to Driftwood RV Fairhope AL
April 9/08 Wednesday D 68.65 km M40 A16.7 T 4h TT6.5h total 405.23km

Wind nice breeze from behind most of the day

Temp 20C to 28C at 1800h

Road Condition narrow shoulder all day except for Styron Rd's 3km

Food: Breakfast Apples, yogurt and cheese [Ken]

Lunch Coffee break at a café and wine shop combined in Gulf Beach; lunch at a weird grocery with Mexican food.... Friendly long haired biker type let us stay inside to make our sandwiches as the Mexi cook didn't make anything "sin carne"

Supper Oh yum bean burgers and rice heated in someone else's microwave!

Accommodation Driftwood RV pk turned out to be FREE as she only lets tents if they are cyclists... usually if a charity ride, but she let us stay.... Washrooms really clean with hot showers; they have "fire ants" that are minute and leave a welt that blisters... I am being really careful as I have blistering going on from my sunburn due to the antibiotics. Mostly monthlies staying here, but neat and clean place.

Overall: Short, good day with slight ups and downs. The start over the bridge I didn't like to Perdido Beach. Huge high rise condos all along the beach for miles. A few older single family homes on stilts still. Kind of a gray overcast day. Went from Florida to Alabama without any welcome sign other than the hiway changed to 182 at Orange Beach. Lots of people our age, but not a lot of older than us. Who is staying in all these condo's? They are building as we bike by. The road Hwy 59 was a six lane divided hiway with a 2 ft shoulder.... Not pleasant! Rest of the day slim to no shoulder but a lot less traffic. So far everyone has been really friendly. Surprising how many "pick-up trucks" there are.... Would rival Lloydminster! Also the number of churches boggles the mind.... Our Sacred this and that/ Catholic; United Methodist; Holy redeemer; Gospel Missions; Baptists; NO JW'S or LDS or Synogogs If there is one church on a corner there will be another across the street, bigger and fancier. One I should have taken a picture of was on stilts right on the water 3 stories high. A lot of money in this area until we headed north on 59 and we came to the common man's homes... into farm land with horses, cows and goats really quickly. Mobile home parks and modest homes. First flat of the trip... guess who! I am having a terrible time with the heat... blisters everywhere...don't know if putting lotion on makes it worse or better.Can not seem to drink enough water.... Some of the water here is really dreadful! And I'll drink just about any water!