

## 4th of July Caravan to Williamsburg, Virginia

Milton and Judy Paul, Bob Harrison, Joe and I set off on a caravan to Williamsburg, Virginia, on Friday, July 2 to celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July as was done in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. We camped at Outdoor World RV Resort.

Because the trip was fairly long, we decided to get settled in and go out for dinner. Bob chose one of our favorites, Sal's Italian Restaurant. Joe and I discovered Sal's many years ago and it always reminded us of our time in Italy, because the food is authentic and there are musicians who serenade you with Italian songs.

The next day, we walked to the historic district and visited the reconstructed Great Hopes Plantation along the way. There we saw how hard plantation life was in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, although Milton rivaled them with some stories of his childhood on the farm. When we got to the historic district, we went to Order in the Court at the original 18<sup>th</sup> century courthouse, where Joe and I served on the panel of judges as actual cases from Colonial Williamsburg were acted out and decided. Afterwards we visited the newly opened Charleton's Coffeehouse for a tour about the social and political role of the coffeehouse both in England and the colonies. The tour ended with a cup of either 18<sup>th</sup> century style coffee or chocolate.

Our evening entertainment was a BBQ at Chowning's Tavern (one of the taverns active during the Revolutionary period). Then we attended an outdoor program which featured a "medley" of entertainments, including dancing, singing, tightrope walking, magic, and feats of strength, by "Mr. Murdock's" travelling troupe of actors. This program was based on actual entertainments presented during colonial times. Afterwards, we returned to Chowning's Tavern for the Gambols. The Gambols are games, songs, magic, fortune telling, and general fun that are typical of taverns in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. We played a dice game called "Buck" with peanuts. As usual, Judy won. Bob, Joe and I really enjoyed the cream ale.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of July we went to the Governor's Palace Picnic. The royal governor of the colony of Virginia had a palatial estate with extensive gardens in Williamsburg, the colonial capital. The Governor's Palace is one of the highlights of a trip to Colonial Williamsburg. Not only was it the home of the royal governors appointed by crown during the colonial period, but it also served as the home of Thomas Jefferson and Patrick Henry during their terms as governors during the Revolution. The picnic took place in the Palace gardens where we had a terrific dinner along with entertainment, including "Mr. Murdock's" troupe again, storytellers, dancers, and musicians. After dinner, we followed the fife and drums escort to a special viewing area for the fantastic fireworks. After the celebration, we returned to the campground and played Fast Track in Milton and Judy's motorhome and drank Judy's famous slushies.

The next day we took a drive to Jamestown on the scenic Colonial Parkway which runs from Yorktown to Jamestown with Williamsburg in the middle. Although the temperatures had not

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been too bad on Saturday and Sunday, Monday started the heat wave of temperatures in the 100s! The original Jamestown fort was rediscovered several years ago and has been reconstructed. Many foundations from the 17<sup>th</sup> century town of Jamestown have also been uncovered. We took the ranger-led tour of the story of Jamestown. The ranger leading this tour was one of the most enthusiastic speakers we have heard. His military background might explain his delivery.

That evening, we attended the excellent play, Jefferson and Adams. This play is only done a few times a year and is a remarkable story told through the letters exchanged throughout the latter years of their lifetimes.

Tuesday continued the heat wave, so we relaxed at the campground. Joe, Bob, and I did a bit of shopping, then we had slushies in our motorhome that afternoon followed by dinner in Milton and Judy's motorhome and talking and visiting until late. The next day we returned home. This was a wonderful trip and sharing it with our longtime dear friends, Milton, Judy and Bob made it even more special.

Pictures of the trip:



Bob, Judy, Milton, and Joe at the Governor's Palace gates before the picnic.

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Bob, Judy and Milton waiting for the fireworks.



4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks at Williamsburg

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Joe, Milton, Judy and Bob at the reconstructed Jamestown fort.



Deborah with Pocahontas, one of her ancestors.