

Day 29, July 24, 2017

Skagway, AK to Teslin, YT

SDA got gas then went to the Little Log Cabin Bakery for breakfast. They had really good breakfast sandwiches. After breakfast, we went to the Gold Rush cemetery on the north end of town. It seemed far out but I guess with the town being so much bigger then, it was probably still part of the town. Saw the graves of Soapy Smith, Frank Reid and several other notables from Skagway. Most of the graves were dated 1898.

Headed up to the border after the cemetery. No problems crossing and we continued up to Carcross with only 1 or 2 photo stops. In Carcross, we stopped by the Visitor Center and walked over to the Sourdough Bakery for a cinnamon bun, bannock, and a cookie. The railroad depot wasn't open so Sue checked out a couple of stores and then we moved on. We turned onto a new road; the Tagish Road to take a shortcut east to the Alaska Highway.

This time coming into Teslin, we stopped at the Teslin Tlingit Cultural Centre. It had many masks on display and a mask carver at work inside. There were several folks working on what looked like some weavings. There were also examples of clothing and daily use carvings on display. They were preparing for a big cultural gathering/celebration this weekend.

Got to the campground in Teslin and set up. Folks gathered for snacks and chatting around 4:30 then went off to have dinner. We reconvened at 7 for dessert. Several of us went to the restaurant for pie and we chatted for a while longer. BJ3 decided to head south tomorrow, taking a different route home to save a day or two of driving, so tonight is our last night as a whole group. Jack was feeling unwell earlier in the day but was able to join us for dessert and socializing. After a while folks headed off to their coaches and we started a 3-hand cribbage game with Brandon. Sue came by when we were about half way through so we cleared the board and started again. Tonight was men against women and the men won the first game. Sue & Ann came back to win the second game. By then it was 10:00 so we called it a day.

Day 30, July 25, 2017

Teslin, YT to Nugget City, YT

BJ3 left before we got up. SDA left at 8, after getting gas. We stopped briefly at the Continental Divide for the Yukon and Mackenzie rivers, then headed on to Rancheria Falls Recreation Site. We hiked to the falls, which were small but nice. Got to the RV park around 1:00, earlier than they expected. Got our sites, then drove down the road to Watson Lake to check out gas prices and do some grocery shopping. The Bobs arrived as we were leaving.

Had dinner together at the RV restaurant; salad, spaghetti, garlic bread and ice cream. It was good and very filling. Several of us had leftovers. Our host seemed not too thrilled that we wanted take-out boxes. After dinner Brandon, Sue, Dave & Ann played a couple games of cribbage before calling it a night.

Day 31, July 26, 2017

Nugget City, YT to Fort Nelson, BC

Headed out from Nugget City in time to get to the gas station in Watson Lake by 8:00. Bob had arranged for us to skip the Muncho Lake campground stop so we headed for Fort Nelson. Stopped by the Visitor Centre in Watson Lake to access their WiFi but were unsuccessful. Saw lots of wildlife on our drive today. Started with a black bear and several individual bison. Then came across a herd of 50 or so bison, including ~ 13 babies. Also saw a couple of swans in the distance on a pond. Stopped at the Muncho Lake overlook for lunch where the Bobs drove up just before we were leaving. After we left there, we saw ~ 20 stone sheep, 4 caribou, a moose, a ptarmigan, another bear and 2 more caribou near the end.

Had a couple spots of road construction where we had to follow the pilot car single file. Dust and loose gravel thrown by oncoming trucks was the worst of it. Got gas at Northern Rockies Lodge and stopped for cinnamon buns at Tetsa River Services (remember, these are THE BEST on the Alaska Highway).

We got to Fort Nelson about 4:30 and drove directly to the Visitor Centre to make use of their WiFi. Finished with that and pulled into the campground right behind the Bobs. We all had dinner at the campground restaurant again, like we did for our first stop here. After dinner, Sue & Brandon went to Ann & Dave's coach for several games of cribbage. Tomorrow is our last segment and we end at Dawson Creek.

Day 32, July 27, 2017

Fort Nelson, BC to Dawson Creek, BC

Headed out of Fort Nelson ~ 8:30 this morning. Stopped at the Visitor's Centre to take advantage of their WiFi then filled up with gas. It was misting when we left but the weather cleared as we drove on. SDA stopped again at the quilt shop on the south side of Fort Nelson where Sue found some more material for her projects.

Relatively uneventful driving. Saw a sandhill crane and a coyote but that was about it for live animals. Stopped at Pink Mountain for gas and lunch. We had several sections of long road construction during the second half of the trip. For the last one, we ended up waiting about half an hour and the line heading south grew to about a mile long. As we drove south today, it became less mountainous, more open, with actual fields, and more populated, with houses alongside and away from the road.

Got to the Mile 0 RV campground, found our spot and went to wash the RV. We scrubbed and rinsed it twice and got most of the mud and grime off. The mud/dirt seemed really sticky and hard to get off. Sue washed off her RV after we finished. Bob picked up dinner for us; pizza and wings! We ate in the pavilion behind the office. After dinner, Bob & Brandon rinsed off their RV and later Brandon, Sue, Ann & Dave gathered for a last round of cribbage.

Great trip, wonderful travel companions, thank you to everyone for making it so.