



Ed & Rob's amazing Wild West

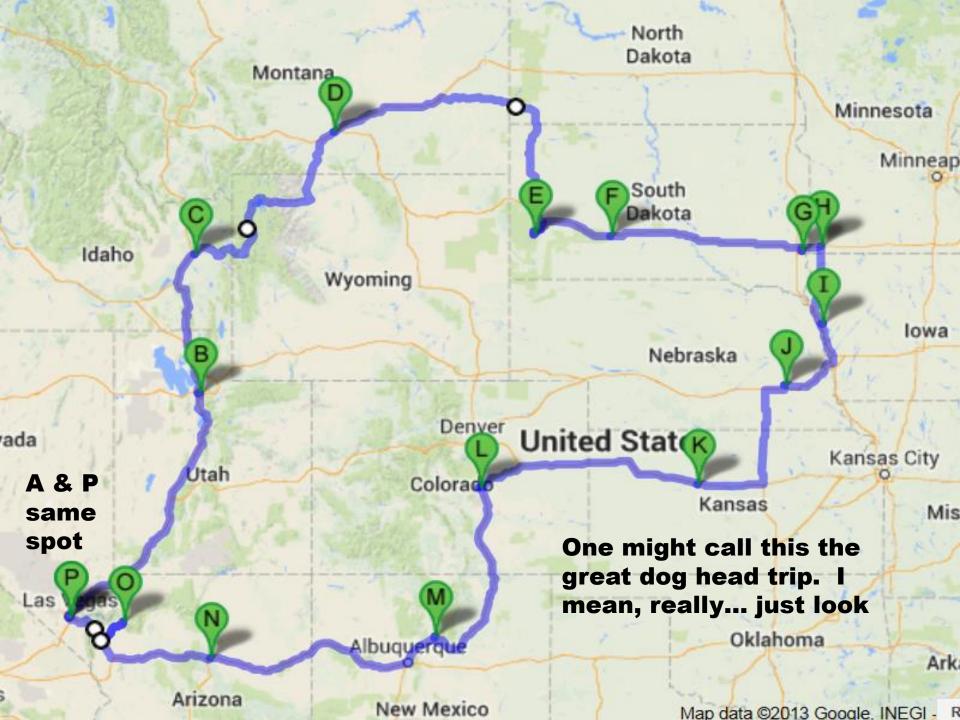




Following our clockwise **Scandinavian** loop of 2012, we figured it was time to add a few states to the list of places we had a beer. Total inventory was 27 countries, 28 states as of 01 June 2013. **Beginning talk** centered around the 4-points area, but advanced to a "western" trip in general. Were 13 states really



Since 30 July 2012 the **Steins & Gerlachs are now** neighbors in Arbor Place, an intimate little gated community in west Round Rock, TX. Spur-of-themoment planning sessions happened frequently, like this one on 20 March 2013 over gin & tonics in Ed's garage. Whatta picture. Map, drinks, pic of biplane ride in 04, and Rob's picture of Ed's dad's last beers. I'm getting verklempt. One thing was certain by this point: we would fly into and out of Las Vegas, and drive a bunch-o-miles in between.



Day #1 05 June 2013 – Our Jetblue flight was very early in the morning. Rob threw his backpack in Ed's truck at 5:15am and we headed out to the airport. Deep in conversation even at that early hour... going down tollroad and missed the exit to the airport. Duhhh. Lack of coffee I'll say. By the time we got there, quite a line and built up at security. Made it through in time, 3 fortunately. MEL

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BOARDING PASS

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Las Vegas, NV(LAS)

Flight

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GATE ASSIGNMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE RECONFIRM THE GATE ASSIGNMENT AT THE AIRPORT.

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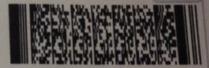
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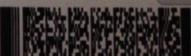
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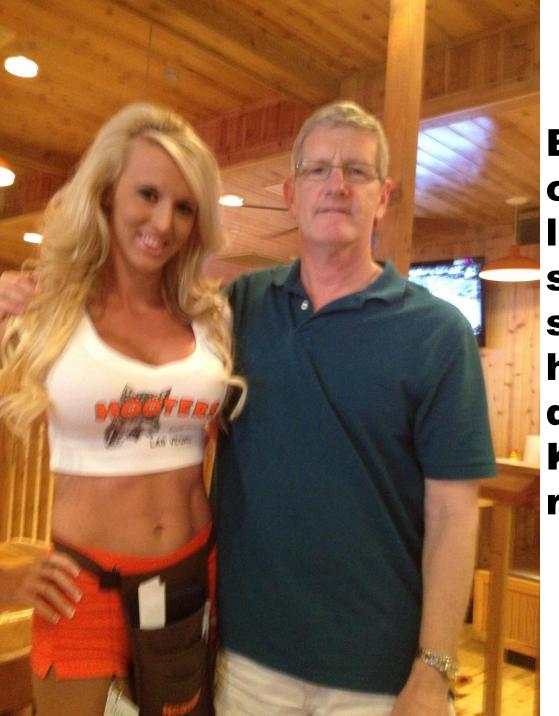
7B



We arrived in Long Beach, CA for connecting flight to Vegas. Got to Vegas about 10a, picked up rent car and headed to the Vegas Hooters hotel.







By the time we checked in, it was lunch time. Our stomachs were saying it was two hours ago, but I digress. Ed with **Kristy in Hooters** restaurant.





We walked off our wings & beer in the intense Las Vegas heat, going indoor routes wherever possible.















Went to the Kevin Lepine HYPNOSIS UNLEASHED show at 7:30p at Hooters Hotel. Fun to see once. Pre-show Bud/Miller light at 7:24p.



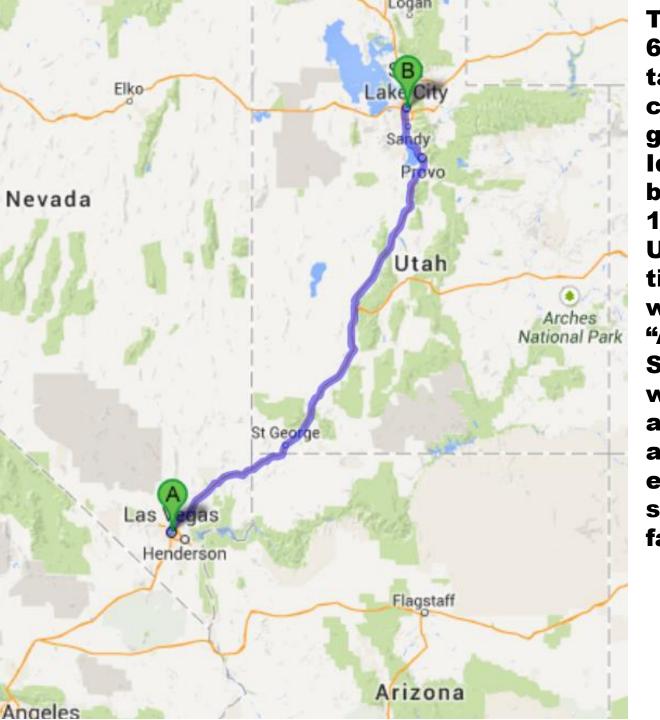
Get hypnotized or watch your friends get crazy





Fun to see the lights and "dazzle" of Las Vegas. Returned to THE PUB at 9:55p for dinner with Ballast Point IPA and Squatters Hop Rising. Big drive tomorrow.





This 424 mile route, 5-6 hours long, would take us across the corner of Arizona. Our goal was to get into Idaho for the night, but plans changed. 10:33a into Arizona, Utah 11:57 mountain time. By 12:48 we were in Beaver, Utah. "Afternoon Delight" by **Starland Vocal Band** was playing on XM and Ed stated, "this is a dumb song." By the end of it he said, "best song of the day so far." Good laugh.











We didn't have the exact address for the Mormon Tabernacle, but trusted the Garmin. By the time we realized she was wrong, we got to see this fine vehicle.





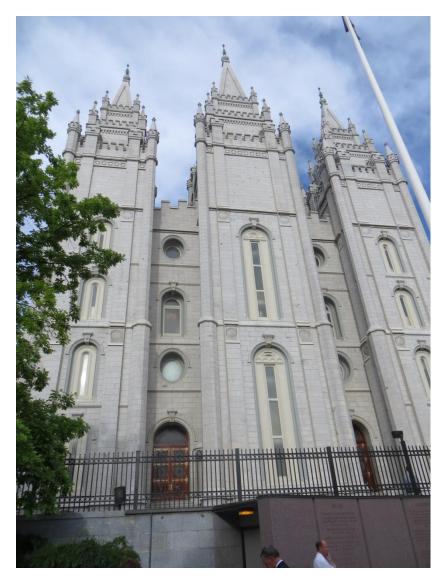




Photo ops of the Mormon Temple. We struck up conversation with locals Roger & Diana Rice whose daughter-in-law played in the MoTab orchestra.







Warming up with conductor Mack Wilberg









This was one of those special mancation moments. Still in the 'afterglow' of the unexpected MoTab concert, these delicious beverages topped off the evening perfectly. Online ratings of this place say beer is ok but go somewhere else to eat.



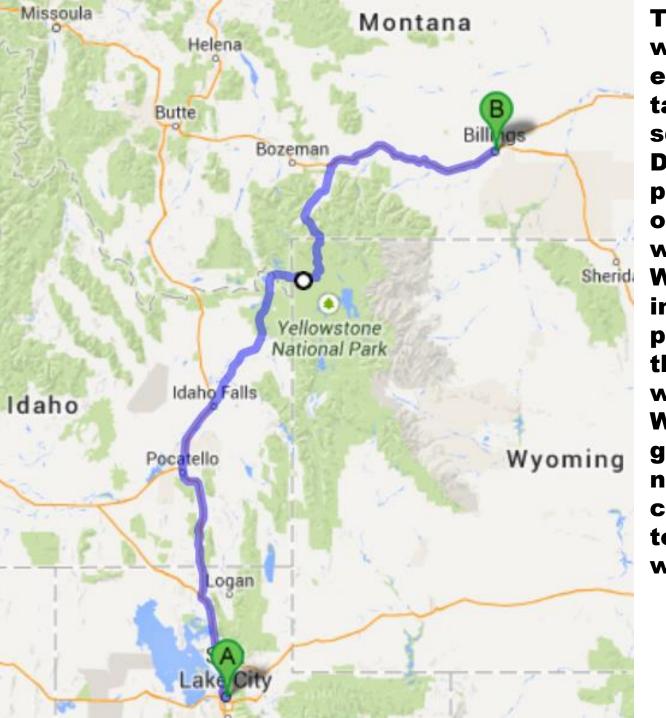






Day #3 07 June 2013. Got up, had hotel breakfast and on I-15 by 9a. Crossed into Idaho at 10:18a.





Today's 543 miles were not going to be easy. We began talking about trying to squeeze in North Dakota, but was it possible? A 14th state on this trip? We weren't sure about Wyoming if we went into Butte as originally planned. By cutting through Yellowstone we picked up our Wyoming beer, could get to Billings for the night, then clip the corner of ND tomorrow. There it was. The new plan.

Found this place for lunch and Idaho beer in Idaho Falls. By 12:15 we were toasting our Idaho beer – a Mangy Wolf Blonde Ale. It wasn't real tasty but the 4.6 ABV looked good since we had a significant drive ahead of us.







Enjoy Your Beer



On the wall at Snow Eagle Brewing & Grill





Stopped here for a leg stretch. 3:04p into Montana, then 3:30ish into Wyoming. This place on Hwy 20 in Idaho.





Our "appearance" in Yellowstone was a cameo at best, but we saw some neat stuff like these buffalo







Had our official
Wyoming beer "Old
Faithful Ale" about 5p
near upper entry to
park.







The Vig - 1) Yiddish slang originating from the Russian word vigorish for winnings also known as the *juice*, the amount charged by a bookmaker, or bookie, for his services.

2) In the Southern U.S., the term is used as slang for cool and hip.

3) In this Establishment, the term is our commitment to you as our Very Important Guests.

Thanks for coming in!

Now I get it!!



After dinner/beer at Vig, we began looking for lodging for the night. Started heading out of Billings when all of civilization disappeared. A tremendous lightning show filled the sky. Took an exit in Huntley, MA and stumbled across this dive bar – the BLUE CAT BAR & GRILL. Did I say it was a dive in every sense of the word?



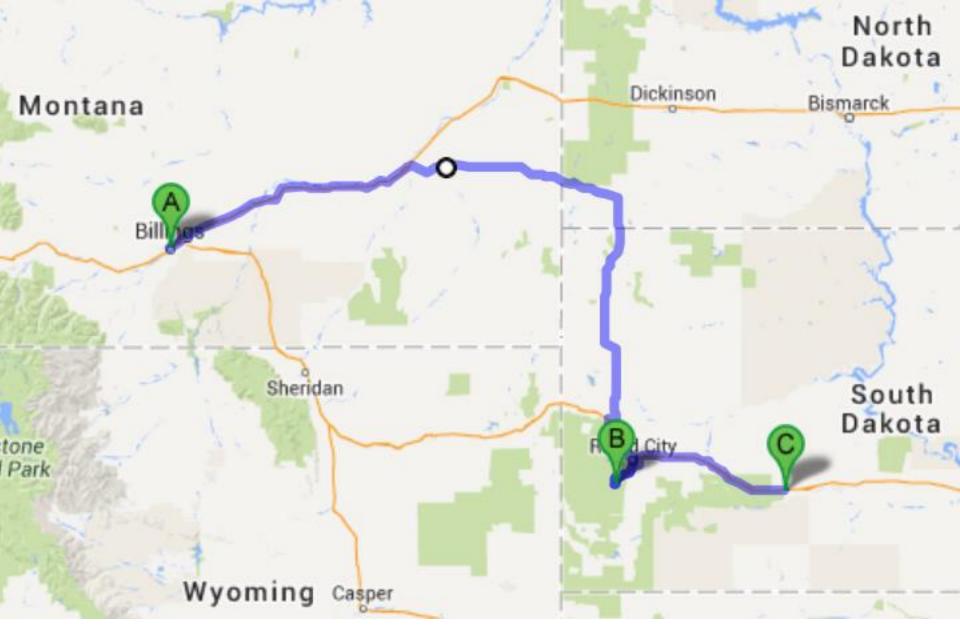




Another one of those moments where if we would have fallen off the earth, there would have been no trace of us anywhere. This place was probably like any **American dive** bar, except, we were there.



Found the VEGAS HOTEL just off of I-90 in Billings. Everything a Vegas theme: carpet, wallpaper, etc. Was ok. Had light beer in hotel bar before retiring for the night.



Day #4 08 June 2013 On the road 571 miles today. Hotel breakfast then on the road 8:30ish.

Some interesting sights along the way. About now is when we got into a deep discussion about donkeys vs. mules. Called Maxine/Harold Gerlach for the definitive skinney on that topic. Listened to Kasey Kasem's AT40 from this weekend in 1972. Many high school memories in those songs. Crossed into ND at 1:04p. Short time later into Bowman, ND for a Subway sandwich and....









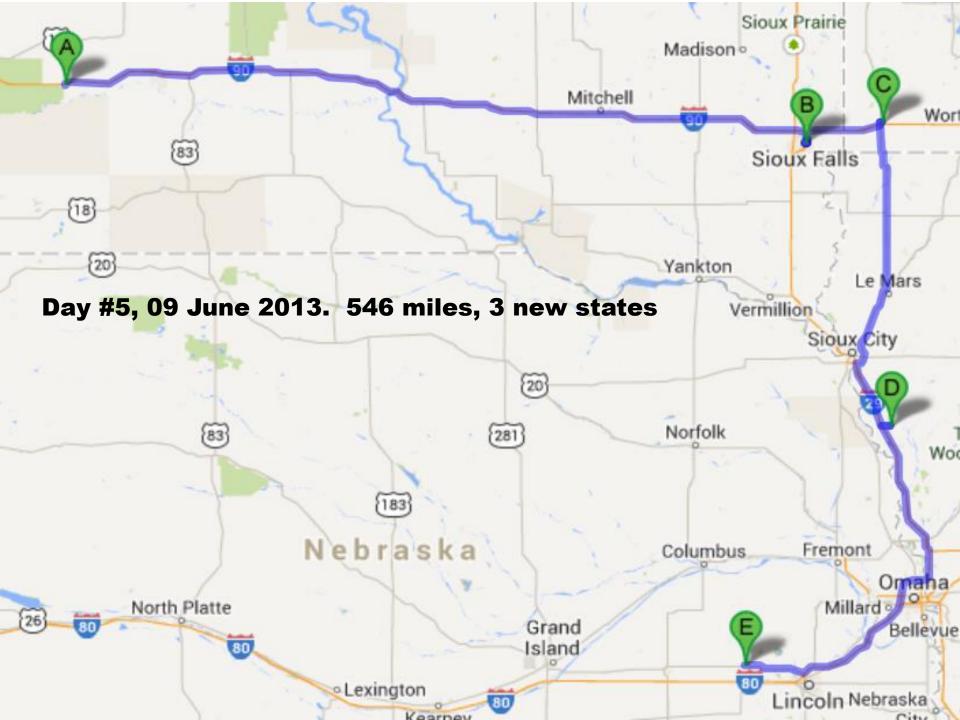












Filled up car then breakfast at this place on the interstate in Kadoka. They got Ed's order wrong. When he said he'd eat it anyway, the waitress yelled to the cook, "never mind... he'll eat it!" All dozen or so people in the place laughed.







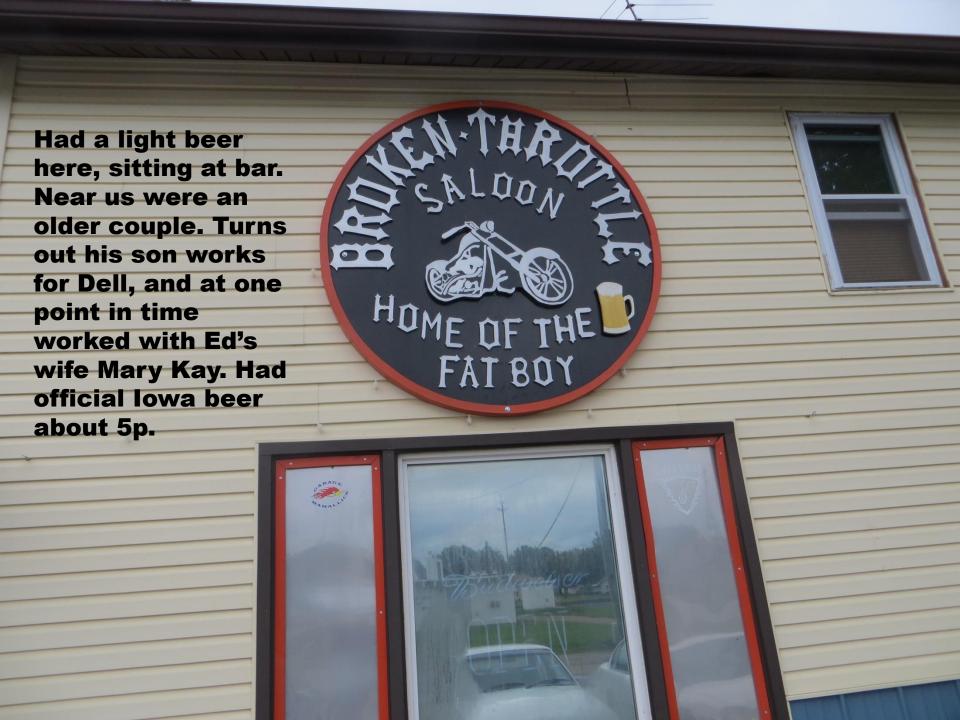
GRANITE CITY



Rob has "history" with Granite City food & brewery in Fargo, ND. **Stopped for lunch** at the one in Sioux Falls, SD. **Had a Duke Pale** Ale. Ed not feeling too good but we press onward.









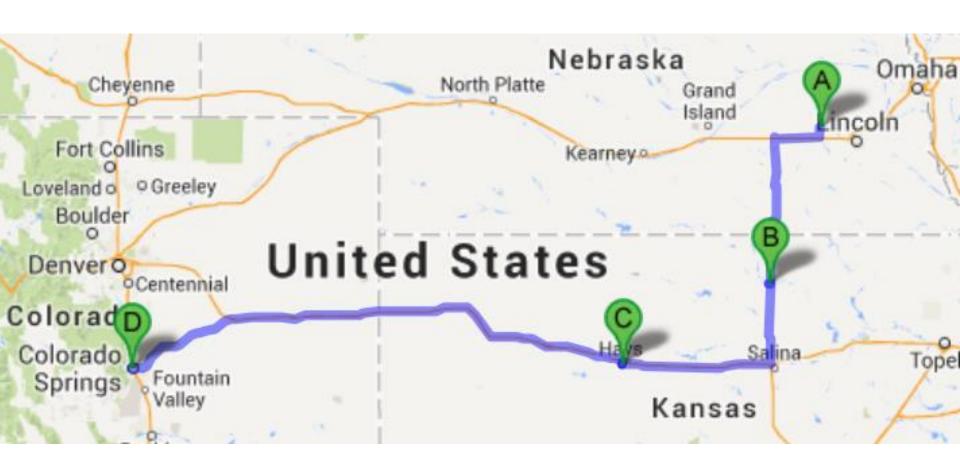






Made our way to Seward, Nebraska, **Rob's stomping** grounds from 1976-1978. Had dinner at Chinese restaurant. **Not sure what was** here at this place in 78, but it sure wasn't the Spare Time Lounge. Bartender's parents met at "Clock" bar in Seward that Rob used to frequent back in the day.

Day #6 10 June 2013. 586 miles today. Mostly interstate hwy today.





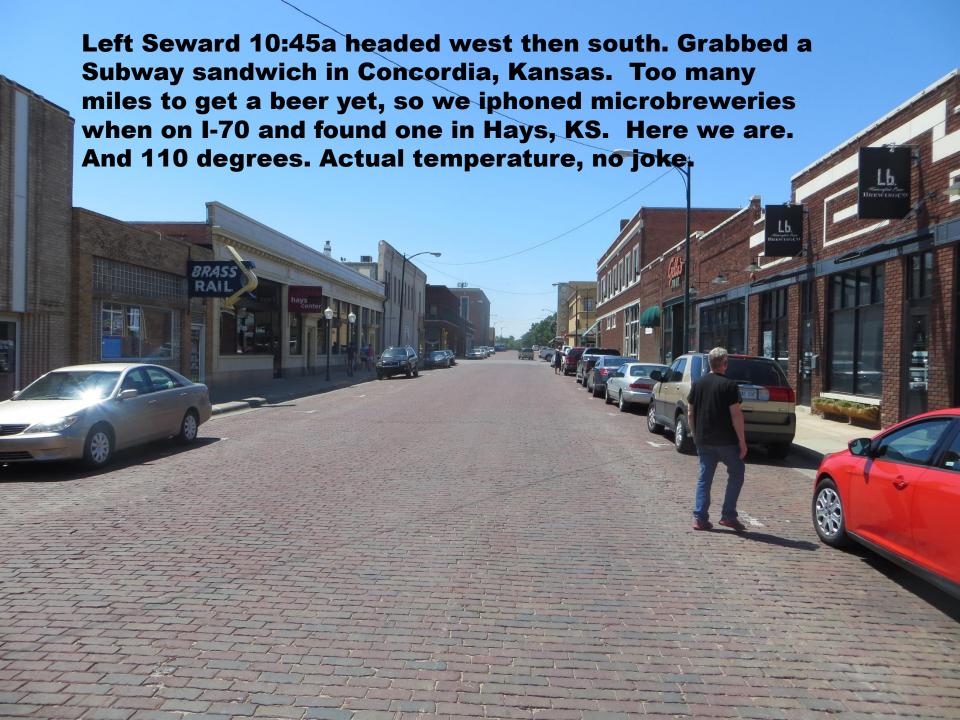


It was a beautiful day on Concordia campus. Went to the student center and got coffee then to Music bldg. Main door locked, but side door blocked open with a rock. Went in, heard organ in recital hall playing, in side door. Low and behold it was Rob's organ prof Dr. Charles Ore at the bench. Had a nice visit with him and he showed us the state-ofthe-art media room. **Another unexpected** surprise.



Caught up with Dr. Ore and got to play new (5 years old) Casavant organ in remodeled **Heine recital** hall.











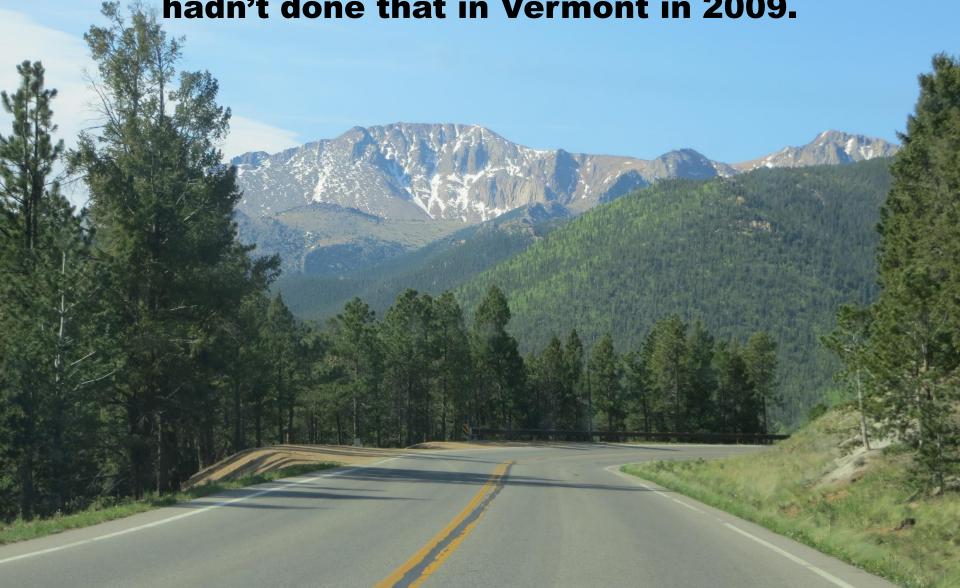
Got to Co Springs around 9p. Went to The Blue Star for dinner and official Colorado beer which was a 400-lb Monkey IPA – a lighter than usual IPA. 9:10p. Put out by Left Hand Brewing Co, Longmont, CO.



Checked in at nearby Howard Johnson's on 1231 Nevada Ave. and walked up to liquor store for 6pk of Mojo IPA. Ed took key chain off of bottle opener gotten earlier at a truck stop somewhere in Kansas and layed it for all eternity on top of this fire hydrant.



Day #7 11 June 2013 After the adequate hotel breakfast we began our drive up to Pike's Peak. Might have considered the cog railroad trip if we hadn't done that in Vermont in 2009.





A thousand pictures of this trek up the 19 mile hill wouldn't do it justice. The beauty and magnitude is beyond camera, film, and digits.









The last third or so of the trip was rather daunting: steep hills, sharp curves, few guard rails, but we persevered and soon reached the 14,000+ feet altitude. Don't let this picture fool you. A very strong, cold wind was blowing. We popped the trunk and put on our long-sleeves before going in. The wind would take your breath away.







You can really tell you're at 14K' because it's truly harder to breath.

Drinking water is suggested, and you don't even blink at \$6 bottles of water because you will find yourself dehydrated quickly.



The biotch doesn't lie. 14,149 feet above sea level.



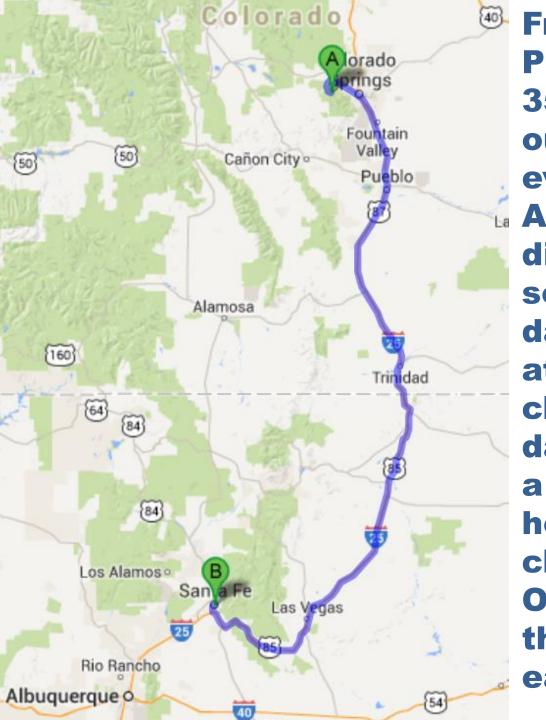








Just as we left the park we saw a Rudy's BBQ. Since it was lunch time (11:40a) we figured we'd see how vastly different Colorado BBQ was compared to Texas. Pretty much the same taste either place, albeit good!



From the summit at Pike's Peak we had a 352 mile trip to get to our destination for the evening: Santa Fe, NM. A relatively short distance compared to some of the previous days. CO/NM state line at 2:36p. As we got closer to Santa Fe it dawned on us that with a few extra miles (and hours) we could have clipped the corner of Oklahoma for a beer in that state. Should be easy enough to do later.



few days later, but we saw this massive smoke cloud as we got into Santa Fe.







Day #8, 12 June 2013. Yup this is Santa Fe architecture. Got up, went to a very nice "yuppie" coffee shop for coffee & breakfast before heading to downtown Santa Fe.



Stopped at Albertsons and saw this colorful character. No words...





The Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi
Santa Fe, New Mexico















A mere 383 miles of driving today. Crossed AZ state line at 2:40p.



Saw this interesting sign at a truck stop where we got gas.







Set out to find lodging for the night. Went to a couple of neat looking places that were either overpriced or full... or both. Checked in about 6 blocks away at the Knights Inn. Walked back toward downtown and ate at Beaver Brewing. Enjoyed a Lumberyard IPA with dinner. Walked back to *Hops on Birch* for another Iversion. By this time there was a hoppin (ha!) crowd at HOPS. Then headed back to motel but it was only 9p. Stopped at a bar called *Attitudes Bar & Grill* for a nightcap of Woodford Reserve whiskey. Good sleepin whiskey. Yea, "sippin" whiskey

too.





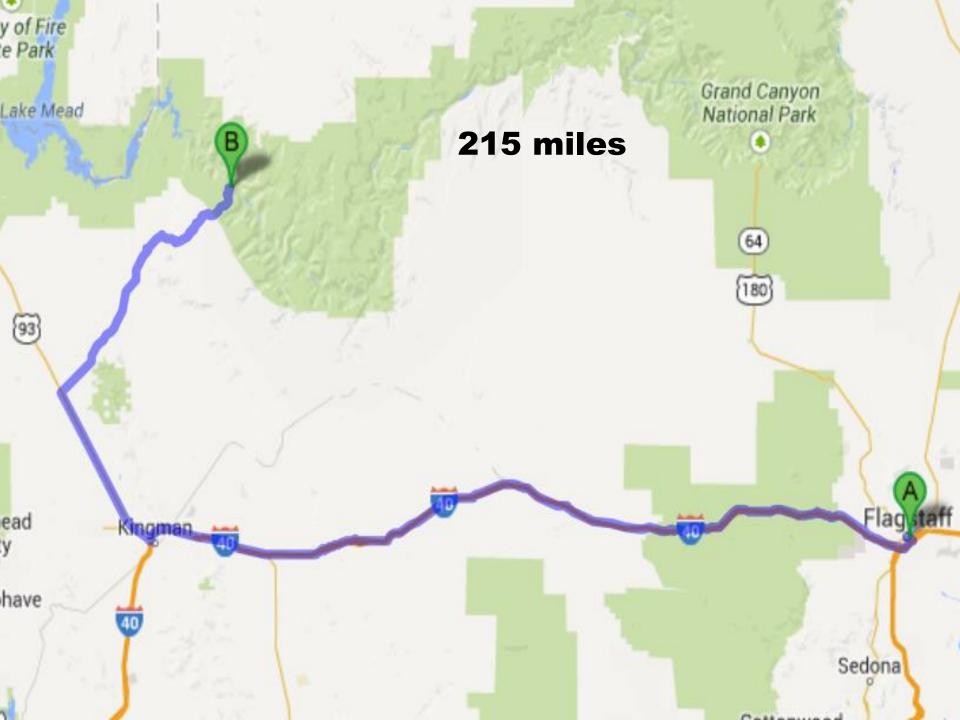
Walk back to Knights Inn. Hotel Monte Vista is one we tried to get in but it was full.

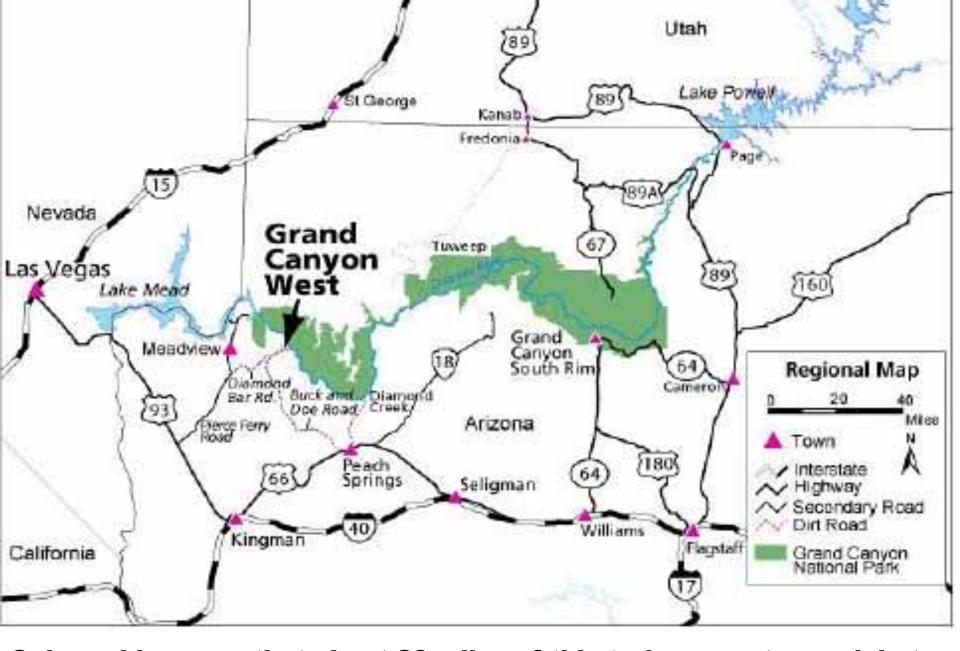




Day #9, 13 June 2013. After a breakfast at the Knight's Inn we started toward the Grand Canyon South Rim. Heard some roads were closed off, so we decided to try the Skywalk on the west rim. Miles of scenery just like this.







Only problem was that about 20 miles of this trek was not gravel, but *DIRT* roads. Good thing it wasn't raining.

Saw ga-zillions of "Joshua" trees. Hmmm. Upon further research I find it is a member of the lily family. Go figure. Was named by the Mormons on their westward trek after Biblical Joshua.



\$75 freakin dollars to walk this. 10% off if you were over 55. Plus you had to put any photographic equipment in a locker and buy their pictures.





Enough whining. It was fun to do. Rather daunting looking straight down a couple o thousand feet.



Another significant place in our travels

Waiting on bus for return trip to parking area







She wanted her picture with us



Got back to Vegas about 5:15, checked into Hooters Hotel. A/C not working right - got an upgrade to a higher room. COOL! Then hit the pavement again. This guy's wife bought him this photo op.



Gadzooks... talk about polar opposites. This slide and the previous one.

Had dinner and beers at THE PUB in the Monte Carlo again and watched Spurs play. Then to sports bar in NYNY. Walked and trammed to Bellagio and Paris.



Cool water show at the Bellagio

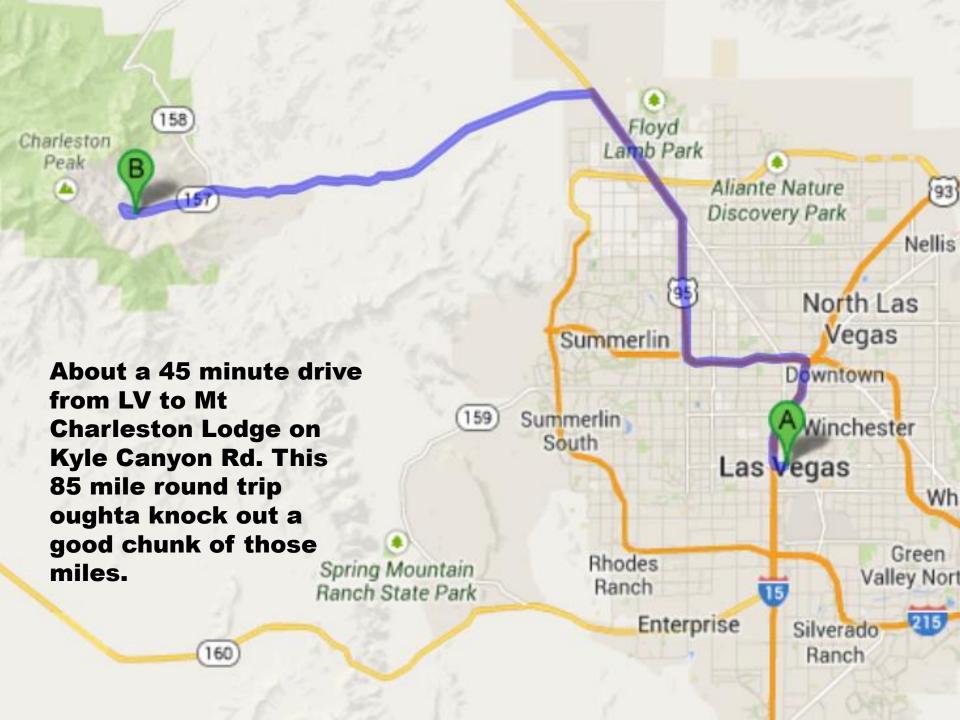






Day #10 14 June 2013. View from our room at Hooters Hotel. Breakfast at Coco's again. On a quest now. Only about 125 miles from a round, even 4,000 miles on the car. Didn't have anywhere to go until the flight out late in the afternoon. Let's try Mt Charleston Lodge.









Bellied up to the bar here for a light beer of some sort.

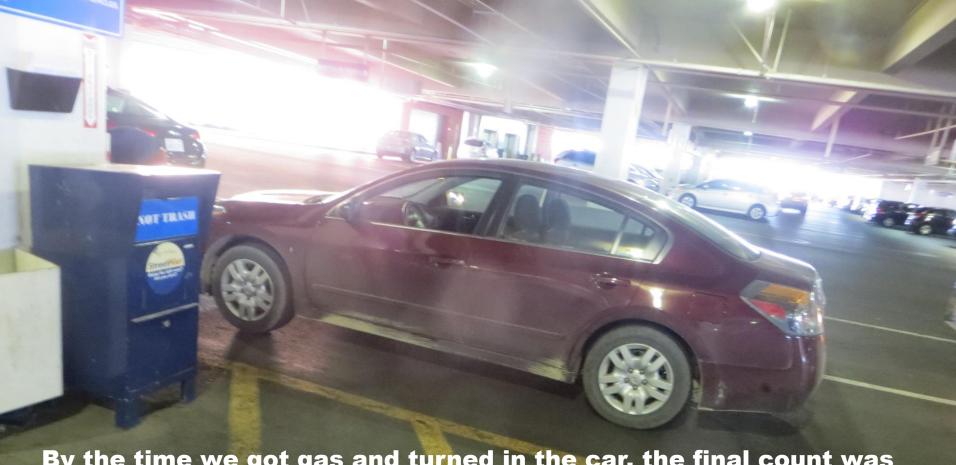






Drove back to Vegas and up the highway an exit or two. Almost to 4K.





By the time we got gas and turned in the car, the final count was 4007.3 miles. Woo hoo!! Then a sad event occurred. The beloved Garmin (Biotch) that had been an invaluable aid in 2010 in Eastern Europe, 2011 in the Middle Atlantic states, and of course Scandinavia in 2012... then this trip... we put it back in its case, but left the case in the car... never to be seen again. We then flew to Long Beach, CA again then directly to Austin, TX.



Other trips these guys have made











Euro 07 including Dublin and Prague and others



UK03
also with Nathan



Don't forget the city dump (above) and numerous guy trips to Medina, TX





Great Lakes 2008



Euro 2010



Northeast 2009



Mid-Atlantic 2011

State & Country Count

- 1999 band trip, England, Wales, Texas, USA
- 2000 Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium, France
- 2002 Missouri, Illinois, Arkansas, Georgia
- 2003 England & Scotland band trip to Hawaii
- 2004 Oregon & Washington
- 2005 Austria & Luxemborg band trip to Florida
- **2006 NYC**
- 2007 Ireland, Czech Republic
- 2008 Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Canada, Pennsylvania, Ohio,
- Indiana
- 2009 Massachussets, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine
- 2010 Washington DC, Switzerland, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary, Croatia, Slovenia, Italy, Leichtenstein
- 2011 Maryland, New Jersey, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina
- 2012 Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania
- 2013 Nevada, Utah, Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, South
- Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona

The remaining states to be got in 2014 including Alaska w the girls



Productions