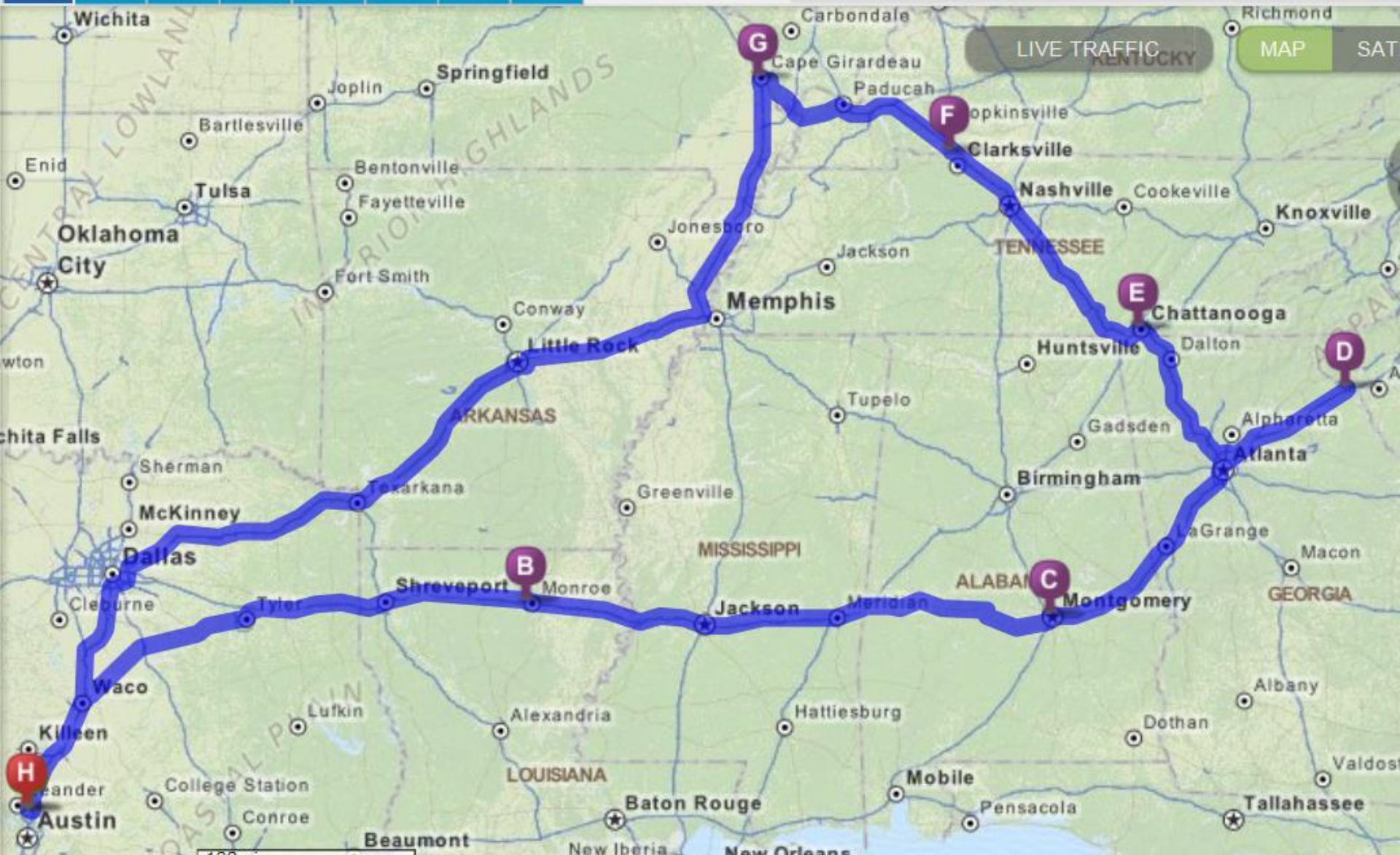


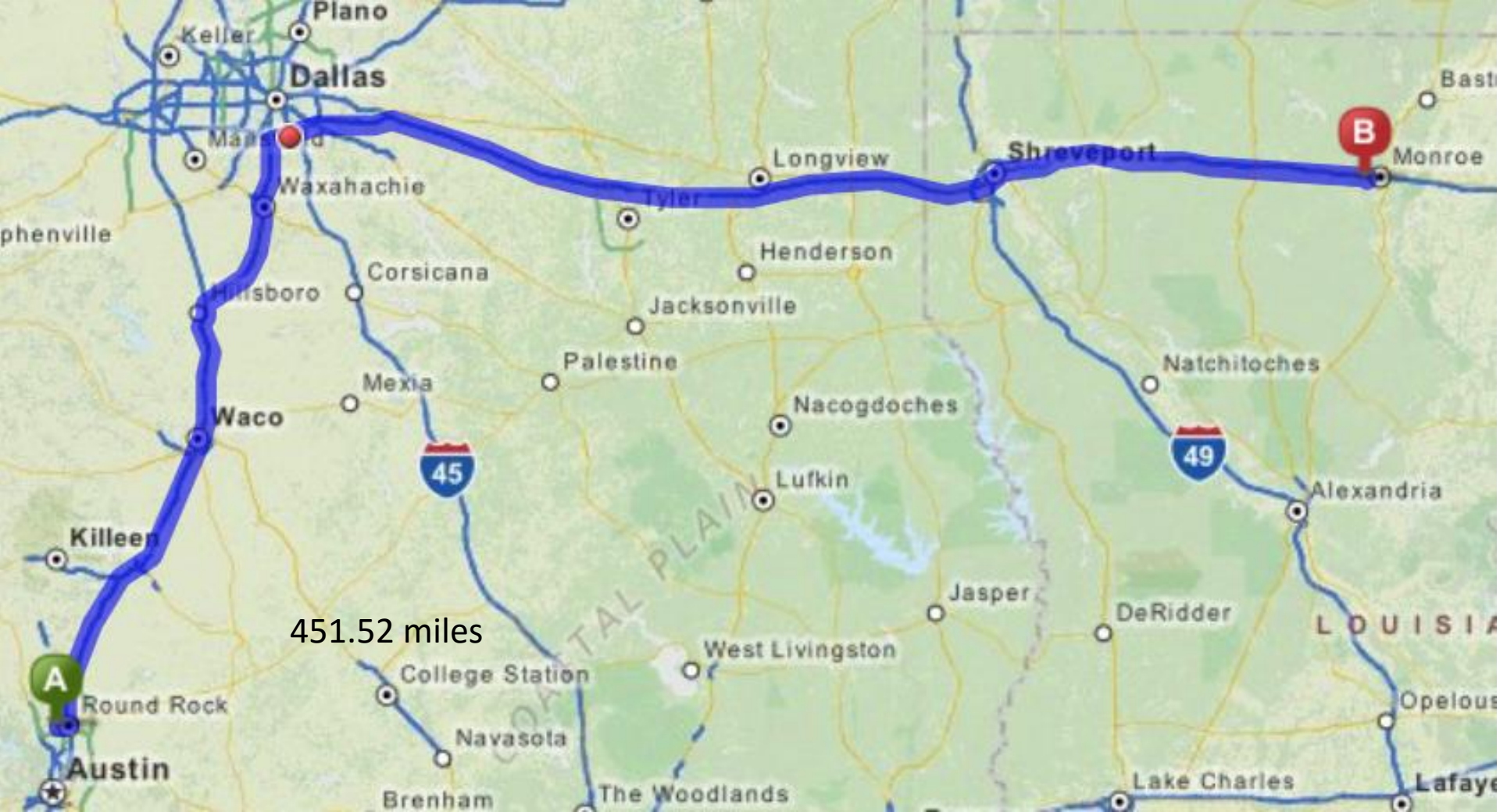
Ed & Rob's 2014 "Check the Box" trip.



**Having had a beer
together in 43 states
now, we had to
complete #44-49
before our Alaskan
cruise with the
wives... for #50.**



Fortunately, our remaining 6 states were in reasonable proximity to each other... but it still took some doing. Pretty ambitious trip for a couple of young & strong 58-year-olds



Day #1 Sunday, 01 June 2014 we roll from the car rental place in Round Rock, TX at 12:33pm and arrive at Duck Commander in West Monroe, LA at 7:30 pm. 452.5 miles. Texas into Louisiana at 5:54 pm.

DUCK COMMANDER
BUCK COMMANDER



**A&E's top rated show
DUCK DYNASTY is based
here**



West Monroe, LA is pretty dead on Sunday nights, even at Duck Commander. Local restaurants were closed, but familiar chains were open.



Our official Louisiana beer with dinner at Hooters in West Monroe, LA at about 8p



After checking into Red Roof Inn, we asked around for a bar. Looked for Enoch's, but it was closed. Ended up here at Shinanigans, 717 N. 6th St in Monroe, LA. Not a great beer menu, a couple of lites will do... and some traditional bad pool games.

Waffle House

Good Food * Good Value * Friendly * Reliable



HASHBROWNS

"World's Leading Server of REAL Hashbrowns"

	Price	Calories
 REGULAR	1.70	205
LARGE	2.40	405
TRIPLE	3.10	610
"ALL THE WAY" 6.10 SPECIAL ONLY 5.00	5.00	650

Scattered on the grill AND... Calories

SMOTHERED Sautéed Onions.....	+15
COVERED Melted Cheese	+50
CHUNKED Hickory Smoked Ham	+70
DICED Grilled Tomatoes	+10
PEPPERED Spicy Jalapeño Peppers. +10	
CAPPED Grilled Button Mushrooms ..	+20
TOPPED Bert's Chili™	+230
COUNTRY Sausage Gravy	+40

ONLY
55¢
EACH
TOPPING



Day 2: 02 June 2014. A sizeable and delicious southern-style breakfast to start the day



Bearded Blend

Fresh Roasted Gourmet Coffee

A stop at Duck Commander before hitting the road. Found out Phil has his own brand of coffee. Why not?



About 372 miles today from West Monroe, LA to Montgomery, AL with stops along the way at Vicksburg and Meridian, MS.



**Rest stop just outside
Vicksburg, MS on
Mississippi River**



Vicksburg National Military Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior





**Beautiful drive
through park**

06/02/2014



06/02/2014



06/02/2014



**At USS Cairo around
12:20 pm**





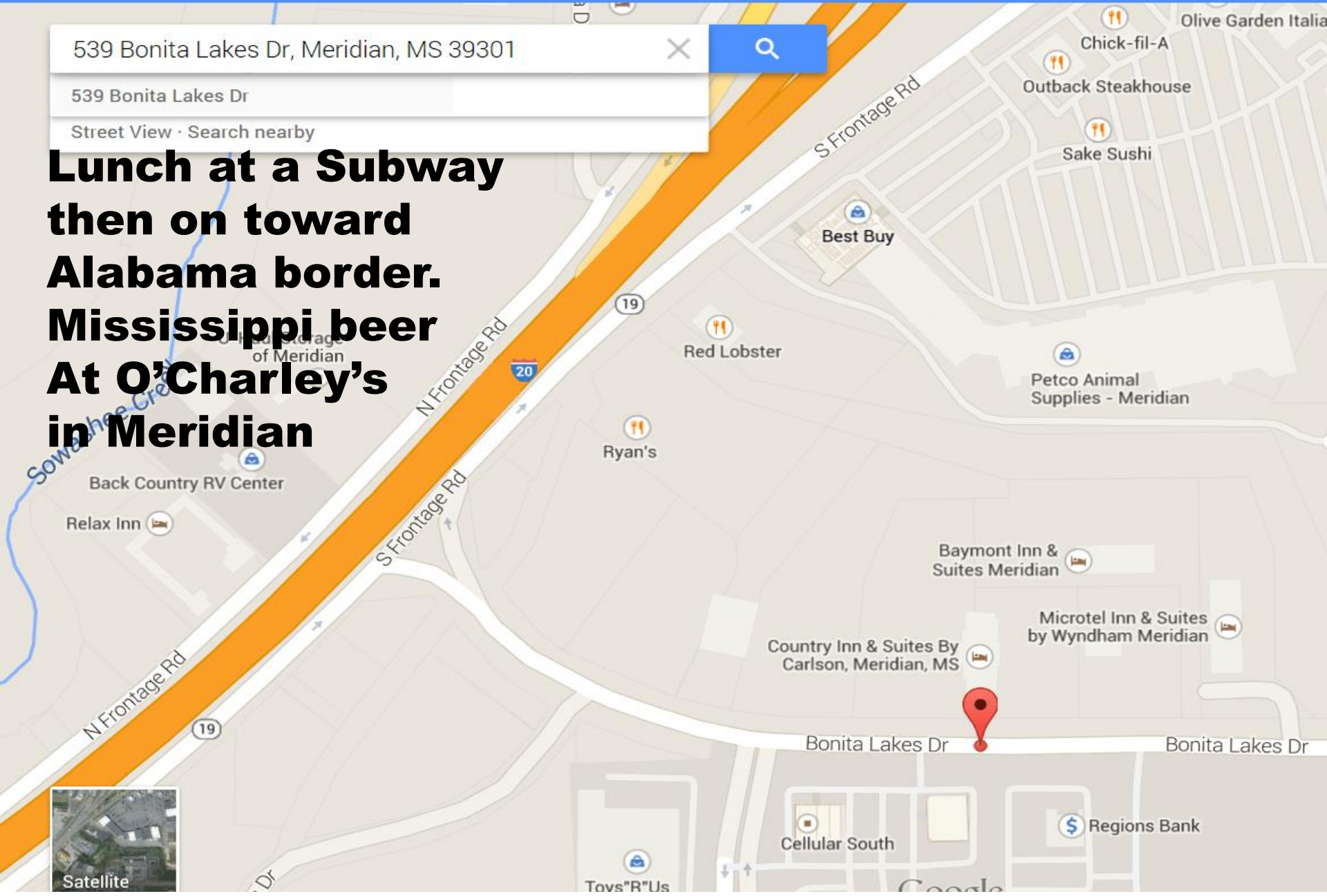
Get to Google faster. Update your default search engine. Sure No thanks

539 Bonita Lakes Dr, Meridian, MS 39301

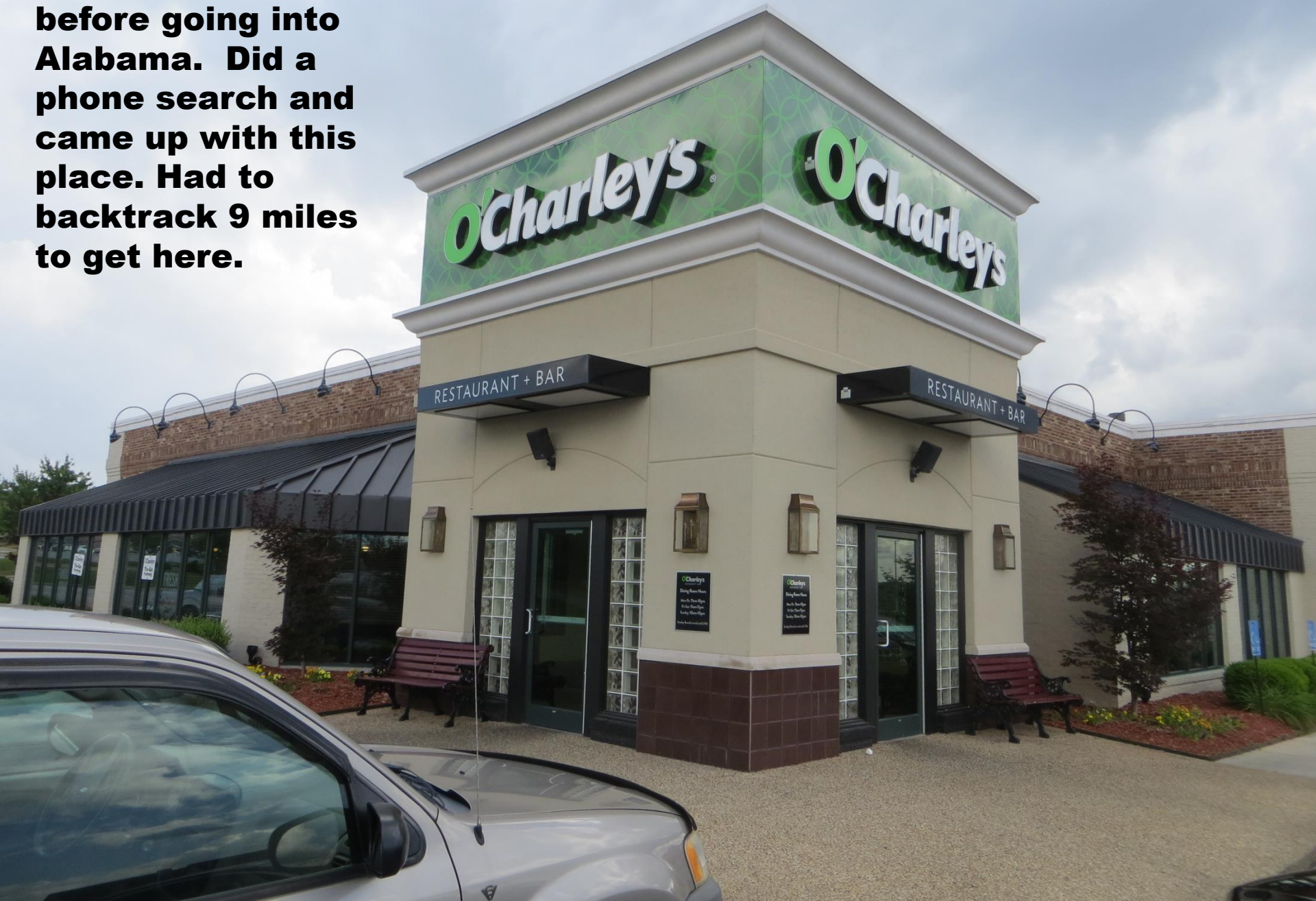
539 Bonita Lakes Dr

Street View · Search nearby

**Lunch at a Subway
then on toward
Alabama border.
Mississippi beer
At O'Charley's
in Meridian**



Had to get in our Mississippi beer before going into Alabama. Did a phone search and came up with this place. Had to backtrack 9 miles to get here.





9:30 ET - ESPN
MIDNIGHT HOUR
NEXT - ESPN
FOLLOW US
@ESPNNFL
LOCKER ROOM
TRUST
NFL LIVE
Keys for coaches and executives
gaining trust in the locker room
ESPN
NBA FINALS
7's Game 6 at Thunder

TEXAS EXES
1st Crafted Beers & Bottles

Logged in Sierra
Nevadas at 3:55 pm

HANK WILLIAMS

HANK
WILLIAMS
MUSEUM



4:38p into Alabama, 8:19 to Montgomery. No real reason to end today's travel in Montgomery except Rob has had a hankerin to see the gravesite of Hank Williams Sr., the first real superstar in the Country Music world.



"PRAISE THE LORD,
I SAW THE LIGHT"

HANK WILLIAMS
← MEMORIAL
OAKWOOD CEMETERY ANNEX

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

FOUNDED 1938

It took us awhile to find, but we succeeded.



AUDREY WILLIAMS

NOW I'M SLEEPING
THIS MORNING IN A NIGHT

HANK WILLIAMS

PRAISE THE LORD
I SAW THE LIGHT

PLEASE DO NOT DISTURB
THIS IS MY BEDSIDE
HANK WILLIAMS - II

HANK AND AUDREY

I guess it makes sense that Hank & Audrey were buried together even though they had been divorced for some time at his untimely death at age 29 New Years Eve/Day 1952/3





Checked into the Hampton Inn & Suites just next door to the Hank Williams Museum. This place was good because it was reasonably priced, but also just up the street from significant bars & restaurants.



**Dinner here at Saza and the oficial Alabama
beer: Monkeynaut IPA**

06/02/2014



B

100

3-62

SEXES

06/02/2014

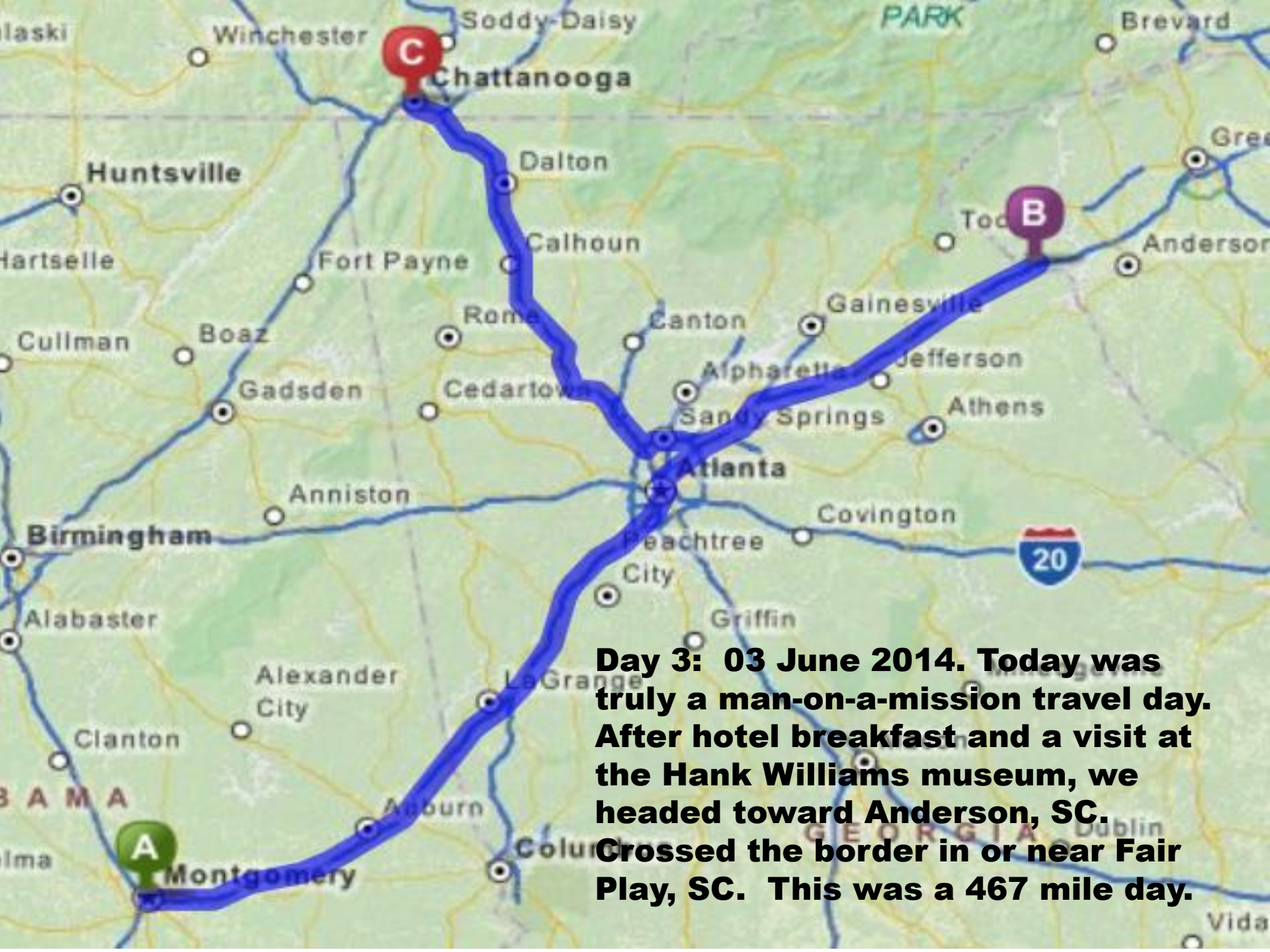


Then down the street to the Avator Bar which was a very cool place... airplane theme, etc.

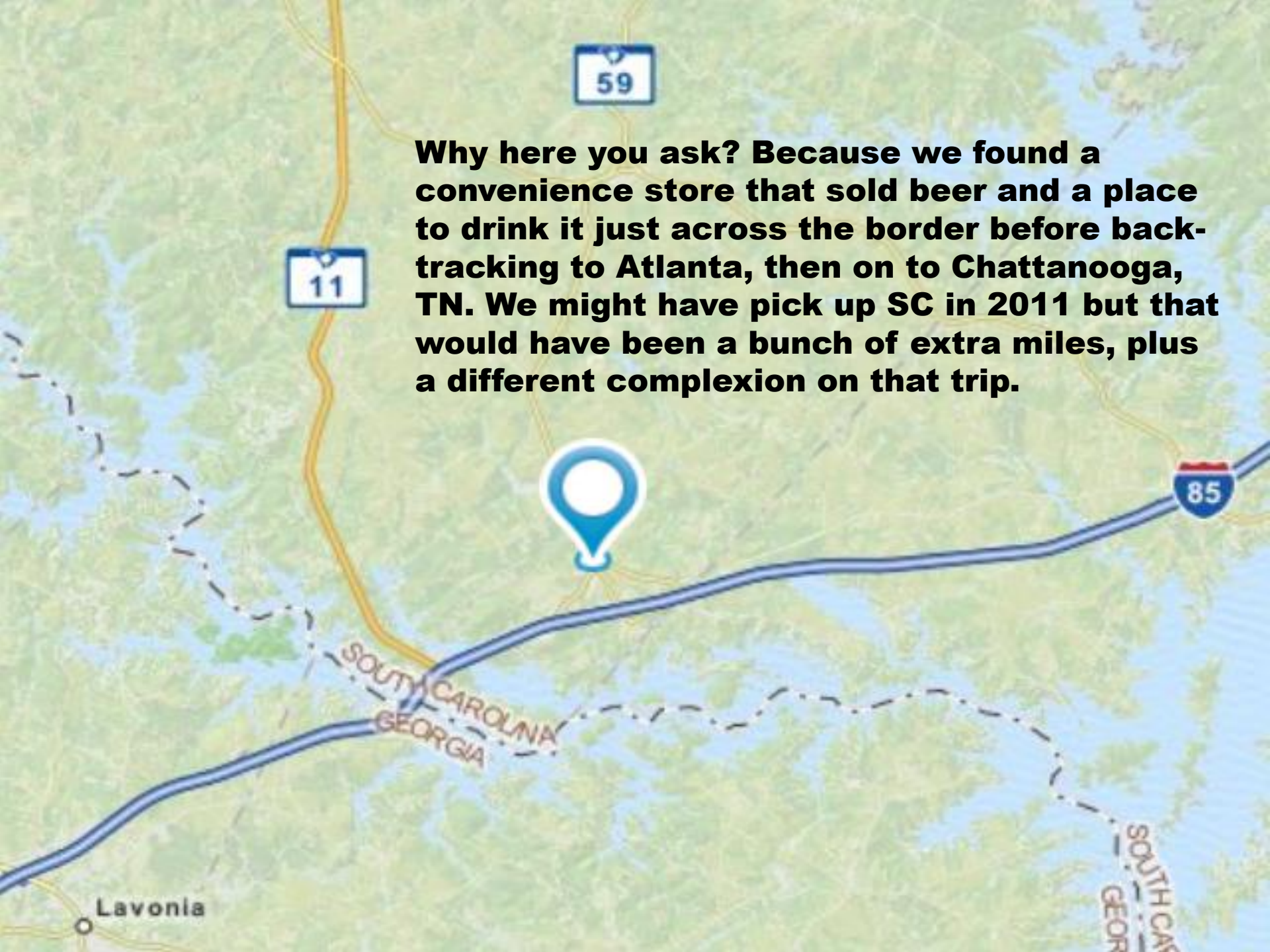


**Had a 420 IPA
for starters here**

06/02/2014

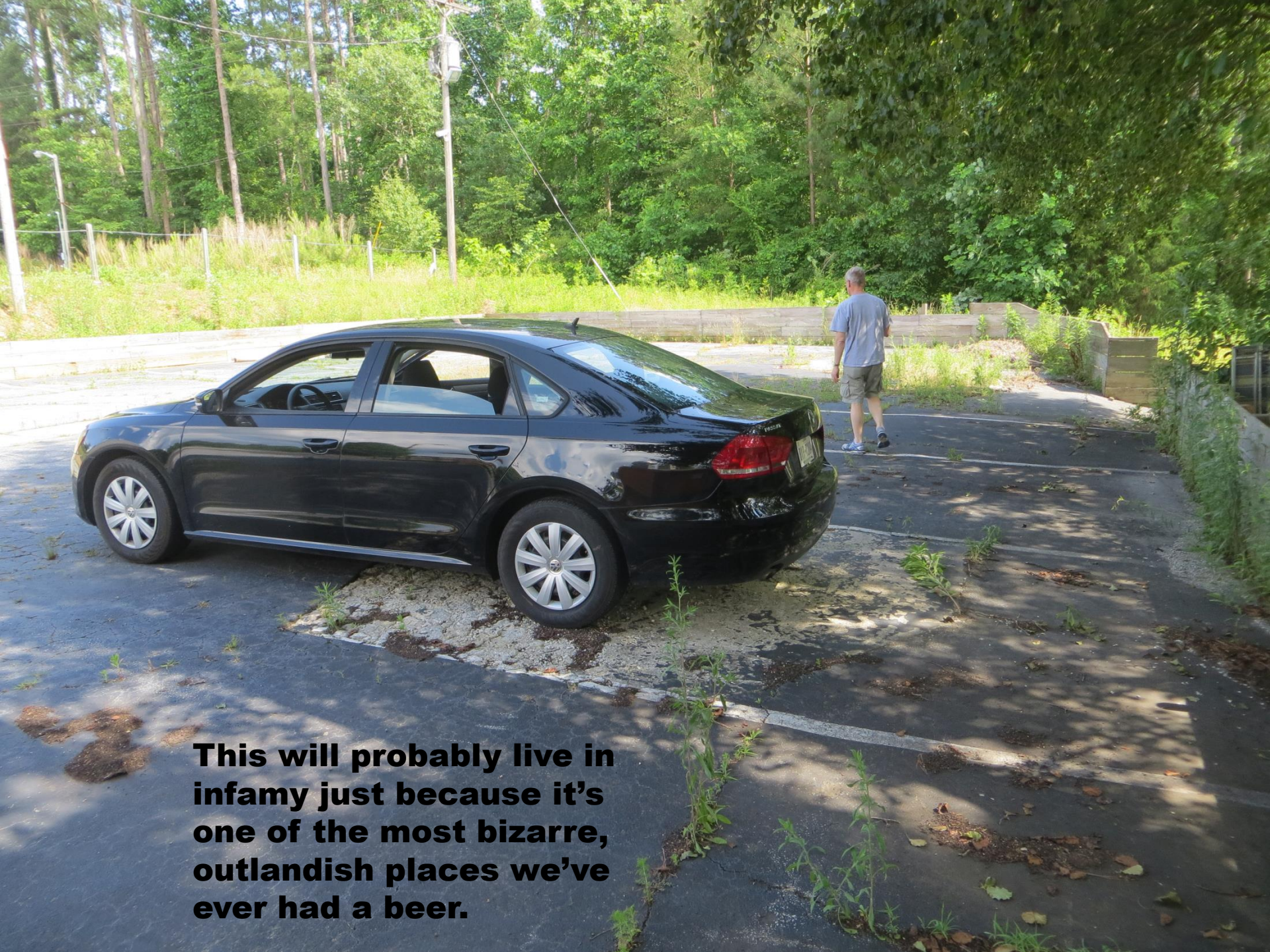


Day 3: 03 June 2014. Today was truly a man-on-a-mission travel day. After hotel breakfast and a visit at the Hank Williams museum, we headed toward Anderson, SC. Crossed the border in or near Fair Play, SC. This was a 467 mile day.

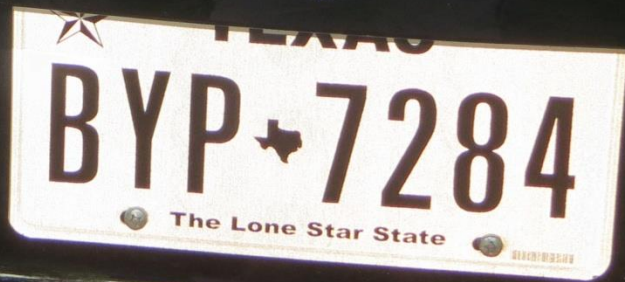
A map showing the border between South Carolina and Georgia. A blue location pin is placed on the border. Major roads are shown, including US-59, US-11, and I-85. The town of Lavonia is labeled in the bottom left. The text is overlaid on the map.

Why here you ask? Because we found a convenience store that sold beer and a place to drink it just across the border before backtracking to Atlanta, then on to Chattanooga, TN. We might have pick up SC in 2011 but that would have been a bunch of extra miles, plus a different complexion on that trip.

Lavonia



This will probably live in infamy just because it's one of the most bizarre, outlandish places we've ever had a beer.





HAPPY
HAPPY
HAPPY

06/03/2014



Though this place had been closed quite some time, there was still a Yelp review available. Something about not a bad place if you can ignore what is going on *behind* the place. Real shady joint I reckon it was.



Tony's
RESTAURANT

LOUNGE

**TRADING
POST**

FIREWORKS

Into SC at 3:45pm, these beer & snacks shortly thereafter. Back into Georgia by 4:45 EDT. Traffic in Atlanta pretty heavy.





Crossed border into Tennessee at 7:43pm. Dinner and official TN beer here at Big River in Chattanooga. Good IPA. A Motel 6 dive for the night.



06/03/2014

If your husband ever finds out you're not "store-testing" for fresher coffee...

**Framed on a
wall in BIG
RIVER**

...if he discovers you're
still taking chances
on getting flat, stale coffee
...woe be unto you!

For today
there's a sure
and certain way
to test for freshness
before you buy



06/04/2014

**Day 4: 04
June 2014.
Had a nice
breakfast
here with
Kristen
Holritz,
former
student of
Ed's, and
classmate
of Rob's
kids.**



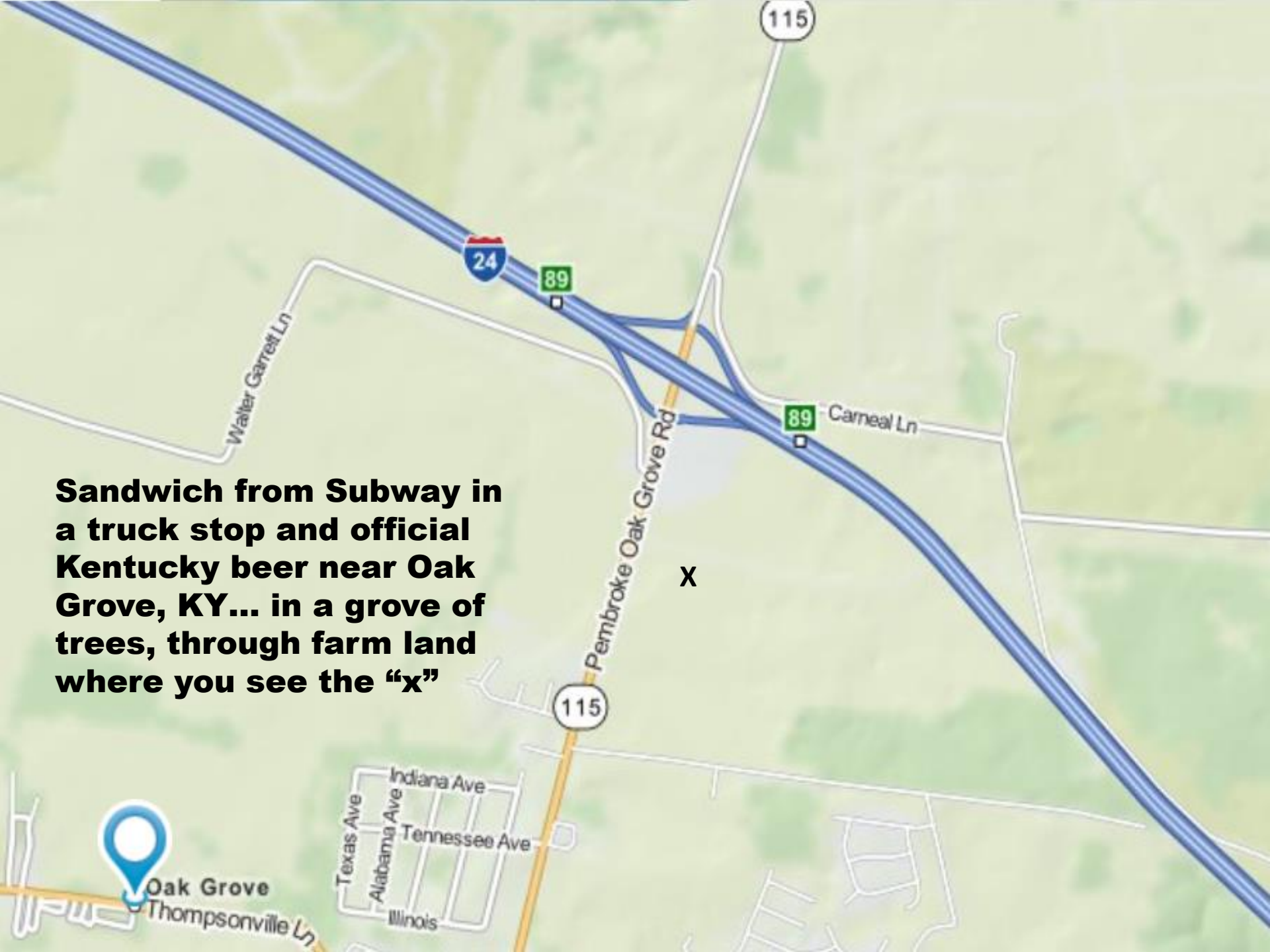


Kristen is principal flute for Chattanooga Symphony & Opera. Here she is addressing young students representing CSO.



Today's trek was 340 miles total. Our only stop was for beer and lunch just inside Kentucky, I-24 exit 89.

Sandwich from Subway in a truck stop and official Kentucky beer near Oak Grove, KY... in a grove of trees, through farm land where you see the “x”







06/04/2014

**Official Kentucky
beer around 1:30
or 2p.**



From there it was on to Rob's home town of Cape Girardeau, MO to meet Rob's brother, Terry, at Broadway Biergarten. A pretty new establishment.



**Rob's mom, Maxine, wooped up
a pot o chicken 'n dumplins**

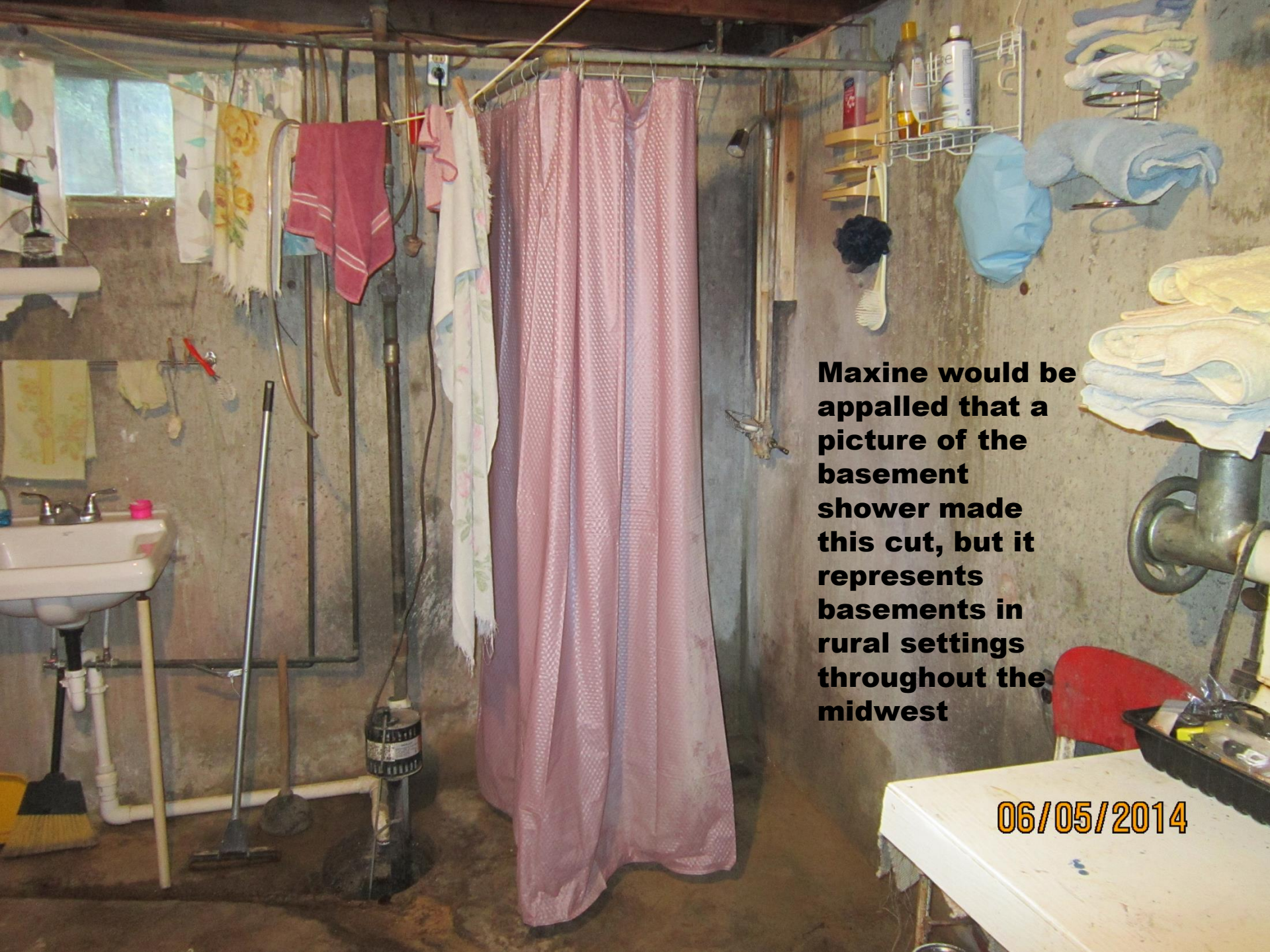


06/04/2014



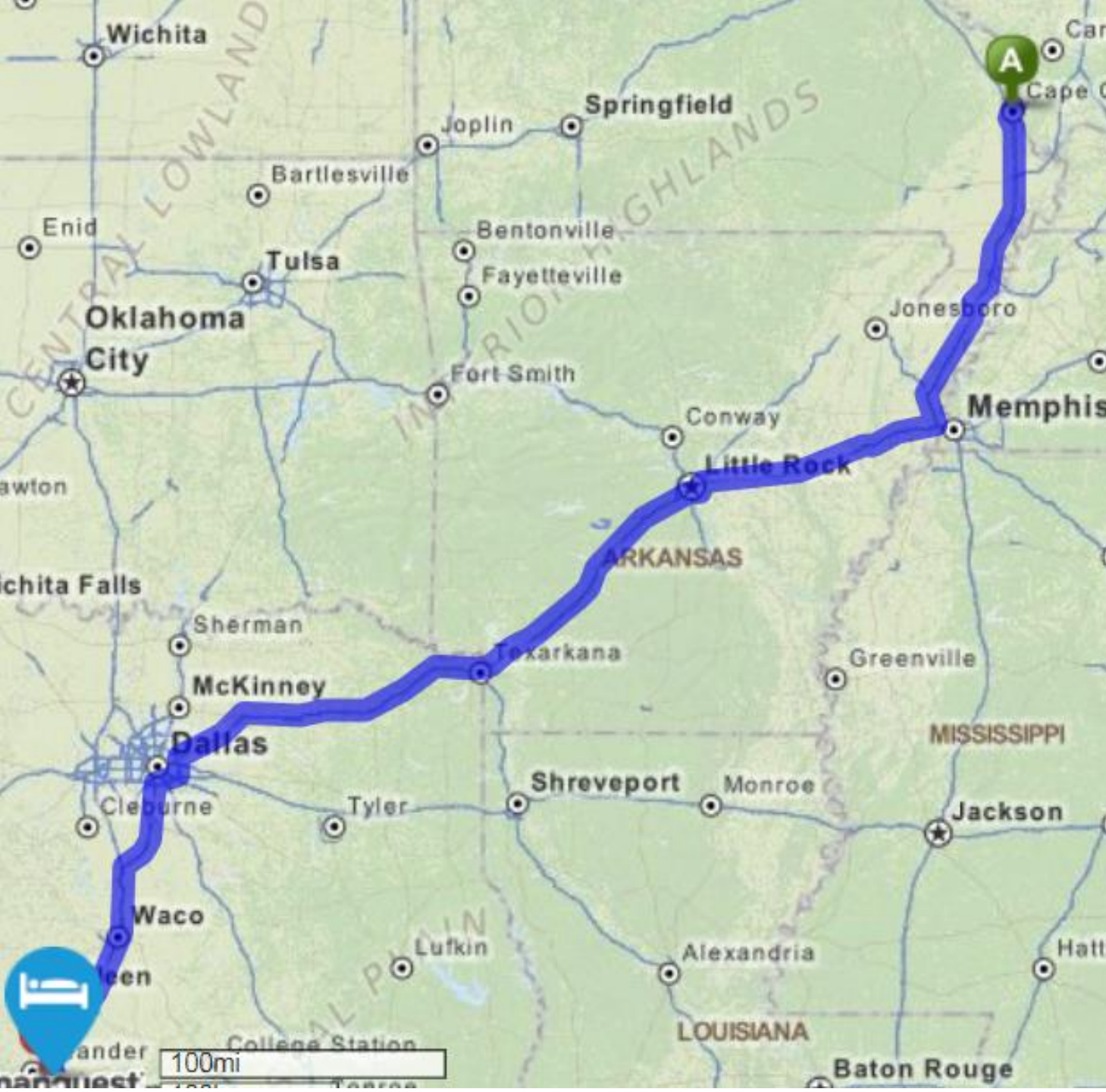
**Checking out the
garden**

06/04/2014



Maxine would be appalled that a picture of the basement shower made this cut, but it represents basements in rural settings throughout the midwest

06/05/2014



Day 5: 05 June 2014. Today was the 783 mile drive back. A solid 12 hours. Grand total for this trip was 2,155 miles. We actually had extra time budgeted for this trip, but since the mission was accomplished, we'll call it good. Next up, state #50! Woohoo!!