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Myrtle Beach and Back

by
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I'm baaaaack.... safe and sound from Myrtle Beach with five games of golf under my belt for the week and thoughts of what might have been with Hurricane wannabe Ernesto. Eight of us from Winifred Village made the trek north to the South Carolina beach and golf Valhalla this past week and had one fantabulous time. The guys were up and on the tee of five different courses by 8 am each morning eager to conquer the daunting, narrow fairways and plentiful sand traps. Actually we played one course twice because it was so beautiful and so difficult. If you make it to Pawley's Island, which is just south of Myrtle on Rt. 17, be sure to give The Heritage Golf Club an opportunity to dazzle you with its absolutely beautifully manicured fairways and greens. The course is built around gorgeous brick homes with plenteous water and gators waiting to suck up more than a few of your golf balls, so take plenty extra.

The ladies got in two days of golf themselves but spent the best part of their time doing their best to contribute to the Myrtle Beach economy by shopping at the local Outlet stores. All of us spent the early evenings enjoying the epicurean delights of the low country at some of the best restaurants on the east coast to the tune of 13 pounds heavier, and later playing cards and games in the comfort of our rented beach front home. Golf was not on the agenda Thursday, however, since Ernesto was doing his best to scare all the tourists away from the beach. We kept calling him a "sissy storm" because all he did was taunt us with blustery winds and only "so-so" waves on the shore. He never made it to full hurricane status but folks up the road in North Carolina and Virginia were abused by his heavier winds and rains. We all hoped that The Villages would be a lucky recipient of Ernie's rain squalls, but a phone call from a neighbor told us we weren't that fortunate and barely any rain fell in Central Florida.

Besides Judy and I... John & Sally, Manny & Elena, and John & Jean were in the group and plan on returning the same time next year, Lord willing and the creeks don't rise. On the return trip to FL four of us stopped in Jacksonville and ate at Clark's Fish Camp on the water where Judy and I got to sample our first sliced deep fried Dill pickles... delicious. Great place if you get to Jax'n'ville so remember the name, Clark's Fish Camp... and give them a visit.

As we drove back into The Villages' environs yesterday we all let out a sigh of relief and expressed our happiness to be back home to our very own resort and we already have a tee time set up for this coming Wednesday.

Before I close I need to mention that before we left for Myrtle Beach, Judy and I participated in a golf tournament put on by the ladies' group "Chicks with Sticks" who all live in the Village of Winifred. It was an unusual format, at least to me, with teams comprised of two couples, switching riding partners and alternating shots on the course. A great time was had by all, even those who finished on the bottom of the win list because the day ended with everyone taking a covered dish to the home of Jerry and Nancy Keidel for an evening of great food, conversation and golf games. The food was delicious, the conversation enlightening and the games fun and enjoyable. I'm sure Nancy would like to invite other Winifred ladies who enjoy golf and fellowship to contact her to find out more about their group.

As I leave today I want to remind all you folks to be sure to watch for the announcement of the Village Voices' first concert to be held sometime in the middle of October. We've increased the size of the group to 139 singers and will feature some individual voices as we entertain you with some fantastic songs with which I'm sure you'll all be familiar, including some great hits from the 40's.

Ya'll take care now and don't forget to keep a smile on your face and say "Howdy" to all the new faces you see walking toward you as you stroll through our two town squares. We want to make every newcomer to our community feel welcome. See you next week!

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