

9/09/08

“A Beaching We Did Go”

by
Tom Holbrook

Unbelievable! That’s the only way to describe the week that Judy and I just had with six good friends on our annual trek to Surfside Beach, SC, for a week of golf, good eats and great fun. Our ‘usual suspects’... John B. & Jean, John D. & Sally, and Manny and Elena moved into our home on the water, ‘Mystical Dunes,’ in Surfside Beach which is just south of Myrtle. We immediately made our tee time for the following day and began making the all-important decision as to where we would be eating that evening. It would be safe to say food has almost become first in importance, currently second only to golfing, for our trip to the beach, and I am going to share with you a couple of new, absolutely fabulous places we went to so you may do the same if you should make the trip one day.’

First night eating prize was awarded to Divine Fish House’, a perennial favorite, at Murrell’s Inlet right on the water. The food is ‘divine’ and the chef’s presentation cannot be beat. Beautiful and delicious! After dinner we returned to the house for our (to be) nightly game of Hand and Foot... guys vs. gals, naturally, and much to the ladies’ chagrin we tore them up.

Because of the lingering weather of Tropical Storm Fay golfing was an iffy, day to day thing, so we couldn’t plan our tee times ahead per normal. We had no problem with that since we were going to play less this trip anyway. We got in three days of golf (guys only,) and we had one day of a mixed scramble with the girls, which was one of the highlights of the trip. We all had a blast... paired with partners other than our own, Jean and I slipped up and won... in large part to her prowess from the tee box. Actually, Judy and Jean carried both Johnny B. and me for the 18 holes. We plan to do more of the same on future trips.

Prior to leaving for SC I received an e-mail from one of my readers suggesting we try out a new eatery she had been familiar with for years... ‘Benny Rappa’s Trattoria’ in North Myrtle Beach, SC. Carol, we were there on our second night and we all voted that it was the best Italian restaurant at which we have ever eaten... anywhere! It wasn’t fancy... maybe seats no more than 75 people... and the menu was on a blackboard in the dining room... but the quality and quantity was superb, and the dining room was full. Trattoria is an Italian word meaning something akin to ‘eating at home’ and that’s exactly how we felt.

Two other new eateries we tried and are gushing about are... the ‘Crystalite Café’ on Rt. 17 in Surfside Beach. Fairly new place but food was delicious and fresh. Specializes in breakfasts and lunches with wraps, salads, bakery items and exotic and flavored coffees. All ingredients are fresh (they don’t even have a walk-in-freezer on the premises,) and prepared each day. The guys thought it was a ‘chick place’ but the food was very good. Jessica is the General Manager and she guarantees great service and

food. She also recommended our final new dining experience which is located in Litchfield, SC, a few miles South of Surfside right off Rt. 17.

‘Ocean 1’ is located over the Litchfield Inn, right on the ocean and it is a pricy, casual but fine dining restaurant that comes in a very close second in presentation, but tied for first for exquisite taste and quality of food. Absolutely delicious, and they give you a broad choice of seafood and/or beef entrées. I had twin, 10oz. lobster tails and they were scrum-dili-ocious. Don’t leave until you try at least one of their specialty desserts either.

As you can see, we ate well and played hard. I must tell you, though it pains me to do so, that we men broke a record in our Hand and Foot matches with our wives. We won every game played... the last one by a margin of over 12,000 points. We whopped ‘em good, and will probably regret it for many months to come.

Would tell you more but I’m out of space... so stay tune for more adventures next week. We’re off to Disney World.

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