

APRIL 20 - I5 TO THE OREGON COAST

Fortunately the rain helped to block out the traffic noise overnight, so we both slept quite soundly. But, early to bed, early to rise, so we were on the road by 7:30.

I had wanted to stop at an RV salvage place in Centralia, WA, just a short distance down I5. But my excellent planning let me down - I couldn't remember the name of the place or its address. Ya woulda thought I'd have made a note somewhere!! Oh well, it's probably too early anyway...

Mid-morning, we stopped at Starbucks and checked our email. I had suggested heading towards Bend, OR, but after checking the weather forecast (-2C tonight in Bend) we decided to head for the coast - no point climbing to 3500+ feet this time of year, we'll do that on our return next month.

We continued south through Portland and then headed towards Lincoln City on the coast. Along the way was Lafayette - home of the monks at the Trappist Abbey of Guadalupe. The brothers make a fruit



cake that is to die for. We had to stop and pick some up. Here's a picture of the reception building and the foreboding clouds in the distance.



Just down the road, in McMinnville, it began raining, quite heavily. We decided to pull off and wait it out. Besides we had fruitcake to sample!!



By the time we'd had our tea and cake, the sun was shining once again. We continued our trek towards the coast.

We arrived in Lincoln City, got some gas (they pump it here for you!) and checked out the local state park. The lower area sites were really soggy, the ones a bit higher up were not much better, but most of them were reserved. So we continued south. We'd pretty much decided to return to Lincoln City when Jen said that Beverly Beach State Park, the next state park we were heading for, was only 6 miles north of Newport.

We arrived at Beverly Beach and were given a spot for 2 nights. While Jen rested, I went to get something for dinner (and also check our email at Fred Myers).

I took this picture on the way into Newport.



Upon my return, we walked to the beach.



On our way back to our rig, we walked past a couple of Golden Retrievers - we had spoken to their owner on the way into our site - we can never pass up a Golden cuddle.

We asked if it was okay to say hello and both dogs came running to greet us.



Here are Liz and Scott, Belle (lighter) and Joey, Belle's brother - what a delightful few minutes, chatting and cuddling!

Who does Belle remind you of?

There are some interesting "formations" in and around the park. Almost look like mangroves.



The weather this past winter has really done some damage on the coast. There are numerous areas on Hwy 101 that appear to have been washed away. These have been repaired but are quite bumpy to get over.

It's nice to see the sun for a change. And with 17C temperatures, it's was a very lovely day.

We're here for 2 nights, so tomorrow we are going to head to Newport. See you there!