

June 4, 2016

Olympic Peninsula

Leave Kirkland at 7:30 on a warm, sunny Saturday morning, drive through light traffic to the Edmonds ferry.

This trip actually started on June 1. We left Wednesday evening & took the Edmonds Ferry, then headed to Anne & Ed's in Suquamish, just a few minutes from Kingston. A mile or two from the ferry the van overheated. Turns out we had a leak and the radiator was about empty. Barely wide enough shoulder to pull over. Luckily we carry four gallons of water with us. We were so grateful this didn't happen the previous day, when we were taking our friend Thulda sightseeing. We made it to Anne & Ed's, spent the night with them, and made it back to Kirkland with only two stops to top up the radiator. My mechanic couldn't get us in until Friday, but by Friday afternoon I had a new water pump, thermostat, and coolant.

We're on the 8:55 ferry. Grant forgot to bring a jacket of any kind. We unloaded some of stuff out of the car and he didn't check his list again when we repacked...

Our ~~original~~ original trip plan included Hurricane Ridge and visiting Amy & Larry Ward in Port Angeles, but we won't have time for those now.

Picnic at Lyre River DNR campground.  
~~It's~~ It's a small campground but there was one spot left, right on the river. It appears to be free if you have a Discover Pass. It's lovely here and would be a nice place to camp.

Neah Bay is about 1:45 from Port Angeles via highway 112. The road is windy, green, & wild, skirting the water much of the time. The beaches are sandy & empty. We arrived about 2:30. It's a warm day but very windy. We stopped at Washburn's General Store to get our \$10 makah recreation pass, and some apricots. Grant had been coveting one of the handknitted wool sweaters he had seen last time, but when he saw the price (\$300), how heavy they are, and that they are pullovers, he decided not to buy one. I was relieved, as I was certain he'd never wear it. (He did find a heavy windbreaker/rain jacket in Sequim, which he has been needing, and will keep him warm if it gets

chilly at the coast.

We're staying at Hobuck Campground \$20 basically a big field near the beach. Cars are parked helter skelter and you just squeeze in wherever you want. A few spots have picnic tables, and there are fire pits (blackened depressions in the sand) sprinkled about. It's warm in the sun but cool in the <sup>shade because</sup> ~~of~~ wind. We set up the canopy for shade & staked it down, and it's noisily flapping & straining in the stiff wind. I'm disappointed that we can't see the ocean from here. Lots of surfers staying here. Not a place I'd eagerly come back to, since it's just an empty field with no trees or water feature or view.

Grant took a nap while I played guitar on the less windy side of the van, in the shade of the canopy. But then the canopy broke. It couldn't take the wind, and one of the aluminum stays fatigued. The only shade was in the brunt of the wind so I stayed in the sun. It was sort of hot & windy at the same time, so a bit of an endurance test.

We had super yummy taco salad for dinner, with Grant's pork carnitas.

Then we went for a walk on the beach, and it's a really awesome beach! Flat, firm, & huge, with views of haystacks to the south. The temperature was perfect, with less wind than in camp. Now we're sitting next to a fire and it's pleasant if you can get out of the wind. Although there are a lot of people staying here (and a lot of dogs) it's pretty quiet.

Slept great. Unfortunately there are bright pole lights that burn all night, but luckily we have curtains.

~~woke to a~~

Sunday, June 5, 2016

Woke to blue sky, lighter wind, and delightful temperature. Left camp at 7:30 and drove to the Cape Flattery trail.

The trail is an easy  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile each way, with gentle inclines, boardwalks, roots. We were alone on the trail. The ocean was very calm. From the viewpoints at the end of the trail you can see caves, sea stacks, and sea birds soaring. You're at the northwesternmost point of the Continental U.S., where Puget Sound meets the Pacific Ocean. It's spectacular.

We sat and watched for a while.  
We saw gray whales spouting offshore!  
And loads of sea lions on rocks.

Got back to the van at 9:30. A hummingbird spent a few minutes checking out the van up close, sounding like a souped-up mosquito engine.

Then we drove to Second Beach, near La Push. Queen Anne's Lace is blooming along the roadsides. It's a pretty easy 7-mile walk to Second Beach, with some ups and downs, through cathedral-like forest. The only tricky part is climbing over the driftwood at the bottom of the trail.

The beach is gorgeous, although it was very hot in the sun and I forgot to bring my sunhat. Try to come here around low tide so you can walk farther on the flat, firm, sandy beach.

After a quick spin into La Push (a nothing-special town that does have a nice marina) we drove thirty miles back on hiway 101 to Klahowya Forest Service Campground. We love it. Right on the Sol duc River with shady sites. There are a surprising number of people here for a Sunday evening. \$8.50 with our discount. It's 84° here at 3 pm.

Potatoes & eggs for dinner. No fire because it's too warm. A few mosquitoes.

Monday June 6

Up at 7. Coffee by the river. Walk around the campground and on the interpretive trail. The signage was a bit confusing and we went right at the fork on a trail that crossed under highway 101. It was nice; a bit overgrown. It came out near the camp entrance, and 101 wasn't too busy to cross. On the road about 8:30. Took 101 south to Hood Sport - a pretty drive along Hood Canal. Then 106 west through Union. Lunch at Tahowya St. Pk. Hiway 3 south and 302 west to Purdy. Lots of vacation homes packed along the waterfront. Hiway 16 south across the Tacoma Narrows Bridge and home. The intensity & speed of the urban traffic was stressful. The house was 85° inside when we got home about 2 pm.

This wasn't our best getaway. Moods weren't stellar - a bit of crankiness and mild bickering.