

A white Christmas?? Well.. sort of!!



I know this is 'stretching it' a bit, but we did have a white Christmas - it just wasn't snow! Bob & I had nice breakfast Christmas Day morning, and then drove down to Myrtle Beach State Park Pier and beach, one of our favorite places. The picture on the right was taken at the Park, and "yes" you are looking at people in the water....in December....in the fog and the thermometer hit 80 degrees! Even for Myrtle Beach this is very unusual. All past recorded temperatures for this time were broken. We had several days of very warm weather.



Well, lets see, what else happened this month? Just look at the next picture of the two cats looking at our suit case outside the front door! Can you guess what they are thinking? That was the morning we left with some of our Lakeside neighbors on a 4 day bus trip to the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, TN. The cats are not happy when we are away, although, we have a wonderful 'cat sitter' in Janet, who also does some housekeeping for us. The cats love her, and she is the only non family member our Minnie will come out from under the bed for. So with Janet we can go on these trips with peace of mind.



Our bus trip to the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, TN was fantastic. Opryland is a beautiful place and sooo huge! There are four distinct sections, each with its own theme and all under a huge dome! Coming into the main gate, you pass the outdoor Nativity Scene as well as a huge lighting display on trees and shrubs. It is beautiful when lit at night. Below on the right is a section of one of the gardens under a doom. Then there a picture of the outdoor light display for Christmas as you come into the park.



It is difficult to explain how big this place is. As you walk around inside, and pass by other guests trying to find their way around, looking lost (because all of us were lost), at least until the final day of the trip. By that time we all got the hang of it, but then it was time to go home!! In short it was a City under a roof, with restaurants, entertainment, lounges, many gardens, etc.



One of the restaurants we visited, *The Aquarium*, had a whole wall showing off a magnificent fish tank. As you can see, there was more than fish in the tank....a guy in scuba gear in there also was holding a 'Welcome to the Aquarium' sign. He is doing other things besides holding the sign of course! Below that we had the pleasure of experiencing the live 'Gatlin Brothers Show'. Below that is the 'Delta Riverboat Ride' also inside the garden dome. We took the ride which I think was about a quarter of a mile long, if I remember correctly.



Many of these tours we go on have been run by a wonderful couple, natives of Horry County, Bill & Betsy Thomas. They were responsible for the Nashville trip as well. They are so knowledgeable of the area which has made our adventures so much more interesting. They shared with us that they are retiring as of the New Year and have secured someone to take over. We hope they will stay in touch as they have become part of our lives here at Lakeside. They were present at most of the Lakeside monthly coffee and doughnuts with information on the upcoming adventures they were planning.



The remaining Christmas pictures are our very own Lakeside Crossing Christmas decorations. Three Christmas trees, the entrance way to the main building and the residents crafted train display.
Hope all had a very Merry Christmas !!





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