

## Easter Jamaica Jaunt

April 15-22, 2017

Just sending this out to a few that may be interested in this particular travel.

We finally got another BUCKET LIST item completed. If Nudity bothers you = read no more.

The grass is starting to turn green and there are a lot of birds, but it still feels a little dismal out there with no tree buds busting out yet and only a few frogs waking up in the woods. SO ---it is time for a quick one week trip to Jamaica with friends (Rich & Barb / Scott & Carrie / Tim & Ann) to enjoy the sunshine.

Up front Tom is not real keen on Jamaica as what he has seen / experienced on cruise ship stops, but will see how he likes it by staying at a gated community that should be a little more safe and secure.

For those interested the Cost for this 7 day all-inclusive = Food / top shelf booze / all the SCUBA equipment and boat diving you want (most places that cost alone is around \$120 PP per dive) came to about \$1,500 PP. Air out of Midway round trip on Southwest was \$593 PP. The cost of the limo service to and back from the Chicago airport to Rich and Barb's home in Prospect Heights, IL, was around \$50 PP (that's three couples sharing the cost of the limo).

### **Friday, April 14, 2017**

Dropped off Buddy at Sharon's late morning, then it was a drive down to Prospects Heights Chicago to Rich and Barbs place (staying overnight for our early morning nonstop 4 hr. Southwest flight out of Midway straight to Montego Bay (Flying SW out of Midway was very inexpensive verses other airlines out of Milwaukee or O'Hair (at 2 to 3X what we paid). For those who have not flown Southwest, you do not book a seat but rather it is first come sit in any open seat on the aircraft. To ensure a good loading position we also paid an additional \$15 PP each way to get into the A (first) line choice.

Thought we would take a shortcut to Rich & Barbs down HW 45, getting off HW 43 at the north end of Milwaukee ----- Oh what a mistake = Turns out the exit we needed was OOS with allllllllllll sorts of construction, turn out they (detour) redirected us right back on HW 43 a little farther South (our shortcut just turned into a 25-mile construction sightseeing detour).

Arrived at Rich & Barb about 10 minutes before Scott & Carrie. Lots of talk and a few pizza's later (with a few drinks) it was soon time for a nice soak in their big outdoor hot tub (105 F) in 40 F air temp and a slight drizzle = MOST Excellent!

### **Saturday, April 15, 2017**

Everyone up around 4 AM. Our transportation (14 person Mercedes Benz party bus) arrived at 6 AM and we were on the road. True, there are only six of us but with all our bags (personal dive gear & costumes take up a lot of space) we needed such a vehicle!

Chicago area is so green compared to the Frozen tundra up north! This being Easter weekend Saturday, the roads were very easy to travel.

Check in at Southwest at Midway was a breeze although we could not use the auto check in Kiosk because Rich's sur name end in "III" = Computer does not compute to such.

Southwest does not charge for your checked bag.

Security is much nicer than O'Hare as they have this hold / go ahead in groups format.

Flight was OK with lots of "kidding" remarks by the cabin crew. Lots of soda to drink and all the snacks (crackers / Oreo cookies / corn chips) you want. No movies on SW.

When we arrived at the Montego Bay airport it was a very quick process to get through customs. Just follow the signs on the floor "ADULTS only - no children" (thanks Ruth for the hint) and they took us to the electronic passport kiosks. If you follow the crowd you will end up in a long line to have your passport processed by a security person.

The customs document has a section wanting to know what countries you have visited over the last six weeks, and sure enough we had listed Argentina and Brazil -----SO ----- We had to “talk to the health nurse = Did you get the yellow fever shot and do you currently have a fever = No to both, so we were passed. Can’t just say we were not in Brazil as the visa is attached to one page of our passport.

Possibly we were lucky, but after we exited customs, we just look for a desk with the H2 sign (on our left). The gal looked up your name (transport was free if you booked with Castaway Travel) and one of the porters took us outside (first to sit at a table and possibly buy a drink – which we did) and then shortly took us to our bus. Scott & Carrie signed up for the airports “Club Mobay” (VIP benefit where someone fast tracks with you through customs and then gets you to Mobay with drinks and food) but they did not spend much time in there as they quickly joined us going to the bus. The Mobay people mentioned that earlier in the day the airport was a mass confusion as many aircrafts had come in, and for our time line the mayhem was over.

Our bus was full of people only going to H2, thus there was no issue. We have read that some busloads are mixed groups of people going to various resorts in Negril.

The bus trip is about 1 hr. & 15 min, and it is sort of a jerky ride. Riding in the big tour bus was OK, but again based on who is going to Negril you may be on a smaller unit. Tom sat in the middle of the bus next to the side exit (which has a big window) to get video, but with all the jerky turns in the road he soon moved up front with the rest of the gang to look forward (less seasickness effect).

You can book a private small aircraft (Tim Air) that will get you to a small airport in Negril, but that will cost you around \$500 PP round trip.

Stopped after about an hour at a nice roadside bar, for a break. Conditions have improved somewhat in the quality of life of the locals. Still cows & goats in the yards, but no one was observed butchering such out in the open (as Tom had viewed years ago), hanging from a tree in their yard). This end of the island has most of the resorts, so possibly the many jobs brings up the living standards, as compared to those areas where the cruise ships pull into.

Since 1990, the first time Yvonne was in Jamaica, the entire area has greatly improved. The tourist dollar appears to be put to good use.

Checking in at H2 was a snap. You just make sure your bags get off the bus, get your card key paperwork and a hostess takes you to your room with your bags.

When we checked in, Angel & Kitty (group we signed up with through Castaway Travel) had a booth set up welcoming us with all sorts of gifts and information. We later learned that Angel & Kitty’s group this year (this is their ninth year supporting such) have the largest ever group (53 couples) to ever come to H2.

We were in room 2164 N garden.  
Barb and Rich were on the beach P 1213  
Scott & Carrie on the beach N 2116 N  
Tim & Ann in villa N 2130

There is no longer a Prude & Nude side, but still the prude side is much more laid back with less partying activity.

One interesting observation about the old Prude classified side = This area has all sorts of amenities (pools / bars / rec facilities), and not much of it is occupied daily, as the “Party” people are all down at the “other Nude end”.

First impression is this place is GREAT, but parts of it (party areas) can be noisy!!!!!!!!!!!!

We thought St Martin was nice, but this place beats it by 100%, possibly because we are here when it is not super-hot, and there are trees & grass & bushes all along the beach and around the entire facility, where at St Martin it is a little arid and almost no trees anywhere.

Complex is BIG, and everything has gone through millions of dollars of overhaul. Sure some of the rooms are dated (1970’s when this place started up, but (from what we have seen) the rooms are well maintained and very comfortable, Every room has brand new updated AC units / big screen TV’s and the staff is outstanding.

We are in the Nude garden area and I think these units are a little (not much) newer with thicker 8" concrete (poured) walls and thus not so much outside noise getting in. The beds are new and they change the bed linen every day. We also had a unit with heated bathroom and shower floor ===== WOW really nice, especially where we like to keep room temps low! The units along the beach were first built and "appear" to be just a little smaller, but the upgraded suites (one's like Tim & Ann's) are really nicely appointed.

The food and drinks were first class / top shelf (Tom likes Drambuie on the rocks and Yvonne likes Gray goose or Toto Vodka, or Makers Mark ).

There are four major restaurants, and the new management dropped the requirement to have reservations at the three specialty restaurants. You might think this would pose some issues, but they say it has worked out 100% better than the old frustration reservation format, where you had to get in line at 8 AM at the front desk to find / reserve an opening.

Reason we like this place is the beach is nice sand with trees for shade. You can leave the compound and walk seven miles along the beach in front of several other all-inclusive resorts (Sandals is right next door, ---- BUT with no trees along the beach).

Sure, if you go over to Sandals next door and compare room for room, we are sure Sandals will win out, but here in this vacation environment you spend very little time in your room other than sleeping, and the all inclusive prices are much lower.

Going to give this place a 3.8 rating (out of a scale of 0-5). Yes, the facility is a little dated, but the location, amenities and staff of this place bring it right up to a place worth visiting and staying.

Just a little third hand background information:

It appears this place had been going downhill during the previous years, where the owners were not putting much in to maintain the place (just using it as a cash cow). Then comes along a retired (some say fired) senior executive from (ask Tom for the name) who took his golden parachute (or separation payout = you know some of those high end jobs can pay bonuses of 5-10 Million a year) and purchased the place. So, over the last three years, Millions of dollars have gone into first upgrading the infrastructure (power / air conditioning / walkways / etc.), and then overhauling / upgrading each room.

The staff appear to be well paid and happy to work here. Tipping is **not** allowed (but some of us do slip a little to the dive shop guys, especially when they go that 135% to make your trip safe and enjoyable). Most people tip, but they don't make it obvious.

Some (again random) information gleaned from those that work here:

Entertainment staff (young hard body locals) of about 15 guys and gals work 3 month on then two weeks off. Most of their shifts are long, and fit into a 11AM to 2 AM activity. Most live on site and eat their meals with the customers. Their English is excellent. Each also has emergency training associated with first aid / firefighting / etc.

The cooks / waiters / housekeeping / gardeners / rec custodians / front staff / security / entertainers, etc. are all well-mannered, helpful and speak very good English. The front desk noted there are currently around 900 employees and that there are 280 rooms at the resort.

Signed up for Yvonne and I to go diving on Monday at 2 PM. Problem is you have to sign up to dive the day before you want to go diving. They go out diving (all equipment included) 3 X a day (9Am / 11:20 Am & 2:30 PM).

The Snorkel boat (includes all equipment) goes out 3 X a day. Resort has free use of Kayaks / five cateraman style hobicat sail boats and lots of standup paddle surfboards.

We spent the evening doing a little exploring and then it was early to bed as we were all very tired following a long day of traveling.

### **Sunday, April 16, 2017**

We went out snorkeling today (trips leave three times a day first come first serve). Short trip out to the first reef. The reef was ok and very much alive at 10 ft., but not really anything worth doing again at our interest level. The water is clear and the coral and fish life was good. The reef has nicely recovered from 10 years ago when a hurricane messed up the island and its reefs.

Spent the entire afternoon in the N pool with a bunch of FUN people. All the drinks are top shelf stuff. Sure, there are many swingers & exhibitionist in the mixture, but nothing offensive unless you might be offended by couples doing their thing off to the side. We understand it gets mighty wild after 10 PM. Temporary tattoos and body shots were the norm for today. Toms (non

qualified) estimate of the demographic for the approximate 280 couples during our stay was around 98% white & 2% other, within the following categories:

- 5% non nudist (totally clothed) couples
- 15% pure nudist couples
- 50% nudist couples with a curiosity
- 10% nudist couples with soft swing tolerances
- 10% exhibitionist couples
- 10% swinger couples

Based on what Tom had read on the internet reviews, this mix (and age of the group) can change quite a bit based on what the theme advertisement of the week (promoted by the various travel agencies / groups) may be. With no theme and just the routine resort routine, Tom thinks it at times may be a relatively slow (and possibly disappointing) environment at H2.

Tonight, was a mix of Easter bunny costumes and a “school girl dress for supper in the main show area (part of the open main dining room area). The show was a couple of entertainers with the band playing a lot of 60’s & 70’s songs. Did a lot of dancing and had one heck of a good time = The people here are so friendly and easy to get along with (no hidden agendas or biases).

We all had dinner at the Flame – Chop House (steak house) close to the beach (restaurant is closed on Mondays) and had a wonderful meal. Again, this resort is BIG, nice / newish (remodeled) and comfortable.

Toms “eye guess” on the mean age average (it is hard to actually tell as most are very active people) of the guests this week is around 50 - 60, with a few hot young bodies in the mix. Sure, there are a few obviously older and some that do not have picture perfect bodies, but everyone here is treated very well.

Various promotions of the week’s them or category most likely change the environment; for example there are weeks when young hard bodies or seniors are the targeted age group promotion, thus the age and energy levels may greatly influence the environment.

With all the available top shelf booze flowing, we did NOT see anyone that over indulged themselves (NO DRUNKS).

This is a mixed lifestyle (swinger) and non- lifestyle resort. The age group mix this week made it a fun week. We found no one overtly offensive, rather just the opposite with respect and separation the norm. NO Means NO – no exceptions at the resort!

### **Monday, April 17, 2017**

Umm up at 7 AM ----- Possibly Tom should not have had so many Pina Coladas yesterday! Another great breakfast buffet in the main dining area, and then it was a little beach time before our dive.

There were a total of 10 divers on the boat with two guides (one in front and one following behind). Diving was out at Arches (there are coral tunnels you can swim through) in about 65 ft. of water. Water clarity was a good 100 ft. with a 77 F water temp. Very interesting reef life with a lot of black fan coral. Yvonne had a little trouble equalizing, but once that was over with she performed well and totally enjoyed herself.

Met up with a very interesting character on the boat. He has been here at H2 for two months, and has these two, gorgeous drop- dead beautiful young twin sister dark girls with him (they are both experienced divers and very articulated in there mannerisms). They dive at least twice a day every day except Wednesdays, where they go into town for a movie and at the same time do a little extra nitrogen off gassing for the week. We ran across this trio a number of times with the girls in skimpy fantastic costumes. Later communication identified that the guy has eight wives (well that is the number he takes care of (no legal paper). The two twin girls are from Panama and he said they were 31 (but they look much younger).

After the evening show the eight of us had dinner at the Harrysan Japanese Restaurant. Just like back in the states you all sit around the grill, BUT the redirect and stories from the fry chef was a lot more “colorful” as compared to what we get back at home.

### **Tuesday, April 18, 2017**

Up early and a great breakfast (outstanding variety) in the main open air dining room. Tim, Ann, Scott, Carrie and us joined our Castaway Travel Group (Kitten & Angels ninth annual Spring Fling) on a Charter Catamaran party cruise ([WWW.Negrilcruises.com](http://WWW.Negrilcruises.com) = boat pulls up right at the dive dock, but this is not part of the all-inclusive, thus it cost \$55 PP). The Cat “motored” east up the coast

where we snorkeled for about an hour over the colorful reef, cruised off of Rick's Café (restaurant famous for its spectacular sunset) then on to the lighthouse. Everyone off the boat and swimming into the caves of Negril was very interesting (like on Martinique).

The water here along this sheltered side of the island point is very clear with lots of reef life in relatively shallow water.

Rich and Barb back at the resort noted it rained REAL HARD for about 15 min. while we were gone.

Just a plug (opinion) here if you ever think about going to H2, do it with a group.

We had our choice of three groups that were going to be here this week (Advertised under "Castaway Travel) and chose what appeared to be a well experienced & organized group.

Groups; even if you do not join in with all their special themes or events, appear to provide that connection, with a camaraderie of individuals you can pick and choose to be comfortable being around.

Doing H2 on your own (like any new place) presents challenges of unknown and uncertainty where you waste 1-2 days just trying to figure things out or even for example; things to do or where to eat.

The resort has various "Theme" nights (example Hats & Heels / Jamaican / Rock Star / fetish / toga / etc.) that run routinely week after week. Over the nine years the Kitten & Angel group have been coming here with repeat friends, they organize and sponsor their own special themes (example Bunny night / Wild Wild West saloon / beach party / etc.) that go along nicely with the resorts themes running at the same time. This helps people that are doing repeat visits in the group have a variety of things to do / plan for.

At the Formal reception in the Piano Bar for the Kitten & Angels group, they had a drawing and Scott & Carrie won a free two-day stay at the resort for any future date. Paul (Angels husband) took couples' pictures and presented them to us at a later date in the week.

Tim & Ann missed our Chop House dinner (they arrived on Monday) so the eight of us went there for crab cakes (most excellent) and another variety from this nice location close to the beach.

Tonight, was the "glow party", where every form of light decoration imaginable was applied to all sorts of costumes. The show again was very good with the resorts core dancers and singers.

After the show, we all went for a tour through the "Play Room" which is a very exotic location where exhibitionist and S&M slanted individuals hang out. ----- Interesting (different strokes for different folks). It was there before "50 Shades of Gray" came out, so some of us think she may have taken some ideas from there. FYI, not our "cup of tea".

### Wednesday, April 19, 2017

Tim and Tom went out diving (7 total divers). Depth here was only around 45 ft., but the marine life was good. We followed a good size turtle up and over the reef.

Scott & Carrie signed up for "Discovery SCUBA" (resort extra at \$70) where they spent a couple of hours in the classroom & deep pool, then joined our boat (the two of them went off independent of our group with their instructor for their first open water experience. Both did great, but Carrie's comment was "I just wanted to breath without that thing in my mouth").

We took a two-person kayak over to Booby Cay Island. The resort no longer sponsors routine outings over to the island. We then tried Stand Up Paddle Boarding. We had seen individuals using similar devices on the rivers in Alaska. The boards in Alaska appeared to be made of hard styrofoam, with a very long and wide platform structure. The units here at the resort are hard plastic hollow structure and somewhat shorter and narrower that we observed up in Alaska. Anyway, we did not fall off, and by maintaining a stand-up position, it allowed us to look down into the clear water to see the starfish and large stingrays swimming by. Tom thought these narrower boards took a lot of balancing leg activity, and that a longer, wider and more flat platform would work out better for him.

Rained like HELL for about 15 minutes.

Tonight, we went to the Pastafari Italian restaurant. Wow, what a nice environment, and very elegant menu. We met an older Canadian gentleman (Dave) as we entered the restaurant and invited him to join the eight of us for dinner. This guy had been to H2

16 times in the past. Dave loss his wife to brain Cancer a few years back. Getting his long-term perspective of this place and its history was really rewarding. His one comment about the guest at Sandals next door, was very interesting – “They all go to bed before 10 PM, next morning they are sitting in beach chairs reading Harlequin romance books, and by 10 AM have fallen asleep in their chairs with their mouths open; while most over at H2 are happily partying all day and much of the night (doing things authors write about in those Harlequin books).”

Tonight’s show had nine additional performers joining the stock dancers for a Fetish night performance. We have seen erotic Cirque Ole in Vegas, and this performance was WAY over the top of those performances!!!!!!!

We again “looked into” the play room, but were out in less than two minutes, as they were having a full house demonstrations in the S&M dominetrics room.

### **Thursday, April 20, 2017**

Tim and Tom went out diving (treasure reef). The guy and his two twins also dove. He noted that on occasion he has stayed at H2 for up to 11 months. He went on to say his eight wives all want to come here, but he rather likes to slowly rotate them here. This guy has money, as all his (their) diving gear (and camera gear) was high tech and brand new.

The dive included seeing two BIG nerf sharks in a coral cave, lobster (longuisters = Caribbean lobsters have no claws), and a sunken (really beat up) cabin cruiser sail boat on the bottom.

Yvonne and I took a walk down the beach past the Sandals property. Yes very nice but twice the expense and much less fun (we think) then H2. We ran into a group of about 25 from H2 walking the Sandals beach. Some of those at Sandals in their beach chairs covering up their faces with towels, but then again, a few flashed the group from their chairs.

We are NOT criticizing the likes and dislikes of those that paid good money to stay at Sandals, as they have their rights to relax in any format they like!!!!

Tonight, was the resorts Toga party. Years ago, they use to leave extra bed sheets in your room for you to fashion your own garment. Now they have bolts of colored cloth that they cut to your desired length and pass out the material during the day at various Toga tying demonstrations.

We (as a lot of other guest) brought along our own costumes. Yvonne decked out Tom as an Egyptian Pharos, and she, in a toga, as his wife fanning him with a palm frond (Tom cut from one of the small palm trees). Guess what == Tom won for the best toga costume. Yvonne was in the first run off and Tom recalls she received the highest volume of applause (cat calls), but the guy in charge heard different and picked three others for the run off. No bias here!

The Kitty & Angel group also had a theme night of Wild West and really decked out the back area dining table area of the show lounge (posters and ice sculptures) with all sorts of a western environment. Tom tried to stay in his Pharos outfit saying he was one of the alien Egyptians in the Harrison Ford movie “Cowboys and Aliens”, but Fred (Kitten’s husband) told Tom he was realllllllly stretching it on that one. So = We went back to our room and changed into a western outfit Yvonne had brought along. Tom went as A crazed Indian pimp with Yvonne on his arm as his dancehall floozie. Well those outfits got us third place!

The Kitten & Angel group then had us all down on the boat dock where they passed out these large hot air Interns with a fire heat source packets under them. Fred read a history of how the Chinese use to use such devices to signal with, and in later years a practice of using such to remember and salute friends and family that had departed. The launching of couples individual hot air lantern within the background of beautiful music was very moving for all of us.

There were all sorts of BIG stingrays swimming around the clear waters off the dive boat dock.

Tonight was also the FOAM PARTY NIGHT next to the disco area. They laid down this 20X20 ft. Three ft. high enclosure (with a walk in narrow gate entrance). Then from high above a foam machine dumped Ki-zillions of small bubbles (foam) down on us (thick and high piled stuff). The resort ran the function for around four hours. Standing outside the enclosure watching the bubble covered bodies disappear and reemerge from the foam was great, but what was more fun was getting lost inside that OH MY GOSH slickery fun!!!!. We only stayed in the foam for about 15 minutes, as you just had to come up for air (they must use baby shampoo as the bubbles did not burn our eyes.) Once out of the foam, it was into one of the three pools in this area.

With no diving scheduled for tomorrow; at midnight we decided to go to the warm pool at the party end of the resort. Surprisingly (though most would be at the foam party) there were quite a few people, enjoying the warm water. Had a pizza (ummmmm nice thick fresh quick bake pies – so much better than anything we have gotten on those cruise ships).

Eventually made it back to the room by 1:30 AM. We had to do a little housekeeping, as there were feathers all over the floor from Yvonne's dancehall floozie boa, and the rest of the costumes strewn throughout the room, so lights out did not happen until after 2 AM.

### **Friday, April 21, 2017**

Ummmmmmmmmm. Up and a little groggy at 8 AM. Yvonne has been nursing a slight cold for the last two days.

Well this is our last day in the sun, so no diving today (do not want to take home damp diving shorty wetsuits we brought along).

After breakfast Yvonne did a little packing. We were thinking about going to Ricks (Bar out on a rock point we had seen during our Catamaran trip), to catch the sunset, but the projections are that it will be cloudy at sunset, so we passed. FYI Resort can provide round trip land transportation to Ricks at \$40 per couple.

Another day in paradise, but it looks a little cloudy, with rain projected. A front came through about 11 AM with strong winds, driving Yvonne (and just about everyone else under cover. The dive shop also shut down all diving activity. Oh, Tom was in the room working on this log).

After lunch, we headed down toward the party pool, then over to Tim & Ann's hot tub for a short soak. Back to the party pool when another front came in and a bunch of us hid out inside the waterfall cave / grotto. After it stopped raining (deluge) it was all over in about 30 minutes, we headed up to the big pool outside the main restaurant, and joined the Kitten & Angel group's pool volleyball tournament. By the time, we showed up at the pool they had already been playing for an hour and one half. Rich & Tom joined one side (there were 24 of us in the water), and it turns out that after another 30 minutes the side we joined ended up winning (532 to 530 - --HA HA).

Right after the game, the third rain front showed up and a group of us ended up in the covered hot tub pool next to the main restaurant. ----- WOW there are a lot of big and small pools all over the grounds.

It was then back down to the Nude Party pool's very warm conversation pool.

For those of you that have not been to H2 (or for a long time) = The Nude Party pool area consist of one large 4.5 ft. deep conversation pool with the swim up bar at one end, and an approximate 10 persons raised pool that overflows into the conversation pool. There is also one very shallow fountain pool in front of the waterfall cave area. A third pool then comes next, and is a very warm 3 ft. deep very large conversation pool.

Every one of these pool stops required us to refill liquid reinforcement (Kitten & Angel gave all of us these big insulated mugs), and by 5:30 PM Tom was feeling like superman (no pain) and we headed back finish packing.

7 PM Tom "THOUGHT" let's be fashionably late for dinner and sleep for 30 minutes or so.

7:10 PM Carrie called to see if we were coming to dinner / the show. ----- Good thing to, as if she had not called we most likely would not have showed up until 7AM the next day.

This evening (Fridays) all three theme restaurants are closed and thus they have a gala feed in the main dining room before (and during) the show. After Tom had something to eat, the room stopped slowly rotating, and it was again dance time.

We headed back to the room at 10 PM, and I think we passed out!

### **Saturday, April 22, 2017**

Alarm at 6 AM and after a little cleaning up we finalized packing. Took our bags to the exercise area to weigh them and they both clocked in at around 48#.

After a little breakfast, we said our goodbyes to Tim & Ann (they do not leave the resort until around 11 AM). Scott & Carrie got on a 14-passenger bus and Rich, Barb, Tom & Yvonne got on an 8-passenger bus.

The ride on the smaller buses was surprisingly smooth and fast (#1 because we did not stop at a bar as we did on the way in and #2 the driver passed just about every other car / bus on the road.

Airport stuff went very smooth. Tom was soooooo concerned not to go over the 50# per bag free checked bag limit with Southwest, but at the check in he noticed the weight numbers coming up on other passenger's bags hitting 60 - 65# with no challenges presented!!!!

Scott and Carrie did the Club Mobay VIP treatment coming in and going out (\$80 PP). Carrie noted (independent of the help provided to get you through customs and the like) the coming in facility (room area) last week was very small, and of so-so value, but the leaving facility / food / drinks / service was outstanding!!!! Tom researched this before and it is possible (but sometimes not available during peak travel) to just purchase the departure feature portion only as you enter the terminal. This looks like a nice perk if you will be spending a lot of time in the airport before your flight.

FYI - Now there was none available at this airport, but you can purchase one day entry into various airlines frequent flyer executive lounges (includes drink & some food) for about \$60 PP. We have a 6-hr. layover in Chicago next August when we go to London, and that might be a must do for that trip.

Flight was very smooth for most of the trip but got a little bumpy in the last 45 minutes = Really like SW, as the seat space appears to have over 3" more leg room over other airlines coach seating. Suspect this may be due to the fact there are no first class seat section up front.

Arrived in Chicago at 4:05 PM (just a little over 3 hrs coming back). Customs went very easy with auto kiosks interface with your passports. End product was just "turn in your kiosks paper (includes your picture) to the agent. Thus was a real short lines for US citizens (non US had long custom lines).

Our 13 Passenger Mercedes party Van was parked outside terminal gate 4, and we were quickly on our way to Rich and Barbs house. Because it was so early Scott & Carrie decided to drive home to the Milwaukee area. We stayed over tonight and the four of us went out to eat and then we played a card game of Golf (one Reidar and Ruth taught Rich and Barb last month).

### **Sunday, April 23, 2017**

Left Rich & Barb's at around 9 AM. We opted to take the tollway, and we only had 2 tolls to go through. Sunday traffic around Chicago was a snap.

Picked up Buddy at Sharon's and brought something home to feed the refrigerator.

It is sunny in Wisconsin with temps in the 60's in Chicago, but only down in the low 50's here at home close to the lake. The grass is very green and will need cutting in a day or two. Tom is bound and determined to "wake up the garden" with some early plantings!

Looked at our grill and noticed all sorts of small sticks and twigs on the deck. Opened the top of the grill and it was PACKED with such on the inside. After cleaning out the bird nest, the two ugly black crackles (one most likely full of eggs) stopped by to give Tom a dirty look.

Closing comment:

We had a GREAT time accompanied by very good, close friend.

Kitten & Angel really made everything flow smoothly.

Do not do H2 on your own!

Live and enjoy life as you can, as you only get one chance. Regretting not doing / going / experiencing such (within your means) when we get to the old folks home is not on our bucket list!!!!!!

The Rents / Tom & Yvonne