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Being Open to New Experiences Brings Surprises

Friday, July 31, 2015

I like to travel. I like to try new things. From the glaciers in Switzerland to the old covered market in Istanbul, I want to see what's out there and participate to the best of my ability.

However, never did I EVER think you would find me at a NASCAR track. I have nothing against auto racing. It's just an experience that's never been on my horizon.

A few days ago while grandson #1 was visiting from Boston, we took an overnight trip to Tennessee to visit DH's 95 year old mother in her nursing home.

While DH spent a LOT of time with his mother, GS and I took several side trips and checked back in for short visits.

One of these was to the Bristol Motor Speedway. When GS lived in VA as a little boy he was quite a NASCAR fan. So off we went to "fan appreciation day."

Jeff Gordon used to be a favorite of his. Even I knew that he drove #24.



It was very loud in the stadium while the drivers took their test laps. But soon I was watching intently to get a photo of this. That green car is being driven by Danica Patrick and I applaud any woman who can compete in a male dominated activity. Good for her! Go Danica!

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I really had a nice time. Who knew?

Another of our side trips was to a Tennessee State Park. Any kid who grew up in the fifties knows the song that begins:

“Born on a mountain top in Tennessee” Yeah, the Ballad of Davy Crockett.

This state park contains a replica of the cabin where he was born, a museum of his life giving a realistic look at the reality as well as the legend and some hiking trails along the Nolichucky River and Limestone Creek.



This “new experience” qualifies as EEK!! I was told this is a “black racer” snake and harmless, but to this city girl still EEK!



Back home at our lake house there were our regular water activities. The lake is 40 miles long with 500 miles of shoreline, so we need our powerboat to see the sights as well as to pull water skiers, wake boarders and tubes.



But most of the time we prefer "quiet boats." That's me on the left.



We can't go as far without a motor, but we do have access to areas deep into the creeks that feed the lake. Lots of wildlife back here – beaver make dams, cranes grab their meals in the shallow water and ducks and geese raise their babies. That's DH in the middle.



Today I'm not joining in the activities. The 2 oldest grandchildren are at Kings Dominion amusement park near Richmond.



Rollercoasters – been there, done that. Not a fan! Some things they can enjoy on their own.

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SEAJESS



AWESOME

trip and you made it that way with your attitude. Especially love the water adventures.

THANK YOU!

2128 days ago



WILSONWR



Now that is a bunch of fun activities! It's funny how we often enjoy new activities - including those we would have never imagined doing!

2130 days ago



DONNALEE-53



AWESOME

2135 days ago



CD4114015



OH YES! What a wonderful blog!

2137 days ago

WAY TO GO THANK YOU!



ADRIENALINE



What fun! Thanks for the romp to a place I haven't been.

2138 days ago



MISCHAKEO



What wonderful activities and such fun. I loved your pictures.

2139 days ago



SWEETNEEY



Sounds like a very nice visit - interesting and different.

2140 days ago





NUMD97

Really enjoyed this. I think you'd like the following link:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heart_Like_a_Wheel_%2film%29

You reminded me when you mentioned Danica Patrick. The link is a connection to Shirley Muldowney, the race car driver. Back in the 1950's while I had on my Davey Crocket t-shirt (thanks for reminding me), she was trying to break into the male-dominated world of race car driving. I understand the movie about her, "Heart Like A Wheel" is on DVD now.

I do so love stories of women cracking into male-dominated fields whatever they are.
2140 days ago



PHEBESS

I'm sure your grandson really appreciated you going to the NASCAR event with him - way to go!
2141 days ago



DOVESEYES

2141 days ago



PRNCSCUP1-2FULL

Good for you! Glad it was fun for you! So nice you are so involved in your grandchildren's lives! It will mean so much to them as they age! Glad you had a fun, new eventful trip and safe travels!
2141 days ago



LIVEDAILY

These grandsons are big fellows!! So great of you to share your summer with them, take them around to places, and just spend time with them. I've been kayaking twice, and love it! Also like tubing, on a lazy river - that's my speed lol!
2141 days ago



WATERMELLEN

Terrific! You know how to have fun!
2141 days ago



FORZACHANDMATT

You are great to be open to new experiences and doing things with your grandkids
2141 days ago



ONEKIDSMOM

Trying new things, avoiding some you've tried before and didn't care for... sounds like a healthy balance to me! The one I remember thinking I'd NEVER enjoy but ended up having a blast? Ice Hockey. Made my son promise to explain the sport to me before I agreed to go with him. It was rowdy and boisterous... so unlike my usual pursuits... and yet... had a great time!

I have yet to try going to a motor sport! But I will not say "never" to any "endeavor"... ooh, poetry!



2141 days ago



TERI-RIFIC

How great to be able to spend time with your grandson like that! Good times! Great pics! I feel you on the amusement park bypass.
2141 days ago

Comment edited on: 7/31/2015 3:57:21 PM



PHOENIX1949

Wonderful memories being created while enjoying the here and now. Thank you for sharing.
2141 days ago



GINIEMIE

Love your family centered summer. Your GS is blessed to have you go to a Car race. I gave whoop for Danica too as I read your blog. Won't cheer her on the track, but really it is so good to hear of young ladies doing so much formerly reserved for the guys. I probably would have gone on a ride or two. I used to love the roller coasters-not the ones that drop off or flip you over, but the older kind....Keep enjoying the younger generation and experiencing new things-it's what keeps

you young.





2141 days ago



MARYJEANSL

Wow! It looks like you have been having a full - and fun summer! What a beautiful lake! As for me, while I kind of like amusement parks, I avoid the summer season, partly because of the crowds, but mostly because I wilt in 100° heat. Not too fond of the roller coasters, either.

2141 days ago



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