

5 August—Got gear in car at 445pm and drove to Reno arriving at 630 at the Quality Inn on South Virginia Street. Had to change rooms because the internet connection did not work.

6 August—Monday—Left Reno at 850 and drove to John Day to stay at the Best Western. Rained in late afternoon. Ate the remainder of the Chinese food leftovers from last night.

7 August Drove to Penticton, BC 466miles. Spent 15 minutes at border. Had to toss apple. At Swiss Sunset Inn 138 cdn. Ate at Greek restaurant. Penticton is in winery and peach growing area. It is also a resort area. Lots of people waterskiing on the lake.

8 August Wednesday drove to Quesnel. Rain throughout the day. Had a nice dinner at a Italian restaurant. Clear for a while in the evening and we walked by the river. Ramada Inn OK

9 August Thursday breakfast at motel drove to Fort St John to Blue Bell Motel. Did laundry . Overcast. Took cutoff avoiding Dawson Creek. Dinner at bad Chinese restaurant.

10 August Friday left 745. Picnic lunch Fort Nelson. To Watson Lake at Belvedere Hotel 620. Had buffet dinner at Hotel. Saw Moose, caribou, bison, stone sheep. Walked to the sign forest with street signs from around the world.

11 August Saturday Breakfast buffet at hotel. Beautiful day. Drove to Whitehorse 275 miles. Belvedere motel: minimal. Dinner salmon. Went to McBride museum. Had gold panning lesson.

12 August Sunday Drove to Dawson City(325 miles). Motel Bonanza \$109. Visited dredge #4 and panned for gold. Sharon found speck. Ate dinner at Sourdoughs. Drove up to the Dome and in second gear on the way down and the engine was dead at bottom. Nice RCMP guy towed us to the garage across the road from the motel.

13 August Monday Garage looked at car by 1000 and found bad fuel pump. Had to order from Whitehorse will arrive at 830 Tuesday. Changed room at motel form 109 to 89 dollars. Walked to town and went to museum. Nice museum. Then looked at cemeteries. Down and across the river on the ferry across the Yukon. Walked through campground to the stern wheeler boneyard. Back across ferry and to the Sourdough for dinner and then walked back to motel.

14 August Tuesday went over to the garage and the car was ready at 1030 (428 \$) Drove up Dempster highway stopping here and there. Raining at Tombstone park. Lots of mud on car. Arrived at 545 at Eagle lake Hotel (150+). Ate dinner at hotel and then drove to artic circle. And then returned to the motel. Eagle Plains lodge more like a truck stop.

15 August Wednesday sun at start at 830 but 2 hours of fog on the Dempster Highway slowed up down. Did a 35 minute hike at Tombstone NP Drove to Moose Creek Lodge. Rustic no electricity or water toilet and shower 150 feet away. Saw Northern lights at 200am and 3 am.

16 August Thursday Had breakfast at lodge which was included. Left 840 and went up the Silver trail to Mayo and Keno. WIFI at Mayo sent email. Museum at Mayo. Back on Klondike highway to Carmack and got a cabin \$65 with a sink and bath. Ate dinner at cabin.

17 Aug Friday drovetojunct 37 and Alaskan hw. Nice modern cabin on highway. Ate dinner at small café at junct.

18 Aug Saturday No gas at junct but gas at cabins. Drove down hy 37 fast Arizona cad cracked left side of windshield on gravel road. Stayed at Shadow mountain at nice cabin with kitchen. Walked to lake. Rained on road a little

19 Aug Sunday overcast. Drove south lots of mountains, rivers and lakes. Went west on 37a to Stewart and stayed at nice lodge. Drove across to Alaska and went up by bear feeding on salmon (no bears) to Salmon Glacier. Very large and impressive. Dinner in town. Internet never worked in room.

20 Aug Monday drove to 37/pg hwy and got gas. Check engine light came of after starting up. Put antifreeze in (1 l) as it was low. Fluid looks icky. Car seemed ok. Went to Akan Indian long house museum. Got motel (travelers motel) in Burns Lake. Internet worked great in motel. Ate at Chinese restaurant in town.

21 Aug Tuesday Bought more antifreeze at Napa and put in. 50 miles later Check Engine light went out. drove to Quesnel stayed at Talisman motel (80 nice room). Went to Ramada wanted 80 for two beds wouldn't come down, travel lodge 85 says this is slow season? Went to prov park Pinnacles for hike west of town. Pizza for dinner and walk after dinner.

22 Aug Wednesday stopped for natural scout bog and rock hunting and gold panning. At Lytton two motels one hotel one motel full second motel we got key to look at room, but key wouldn't open door. Wanted 80+ drove down 25 miles at Green Canyon motel for 50+ by highway 1. Ate at restaurant by motel. Loud trucks north of Boston bar

23 Aug Thursday Ate breakfast at boston bar. Drove to Hell canyon and hiked down to river. Hiked to old bridge. Drove across border 30 minutes. To Douglas fir campground by Mt Baker. Camped by river.

24 Aug Friday drove to end of road at mt Baker. Drove to Patty and Bob's house in Anacortes and ate dinner at house.

25 Aug Saturday had dinner with bob and patty and then drove down I5. got routed off I5 due to wreck, lost one hour. Stayed at Ramada Inn Vancouver, WA Ate dinner at Chinese buffet. Good

26 Aug Sandwich at Grants pass OR stopped at travel lodge in Red Bluff. By river pool nice place but dated. Ate dinner at Luigi's Italian place. Good

27 Aug left 830 lunch in Merced at Marie Callander on 99. Arrived home 615

emails

9 aug

I will be sending emails every few days with a picture attached while we are on our Canada trip. If you don't want to receive the emails, please send me an email.

We left after our pack trip, which was very nice, and stayed Sunday night in Reno, Monday night in John Day, OR and drove into Canada Tuesday afternoon. It took 15 minutes to cross the border and we had to throw away an excellent NZ apple. The inspector gave us a note to a Bar in Dawson Creek for two beers. Stayed Tuesday night in Penticton 50 miles north of the border. It is a resort town and was quite busy, as the Peach Festival was starting the next day. Wednesday night was spent in in Quesnel and

now we are in Ft St John, at latitude 56 degrees. Lots of trees and forests. Attached is a picture of the Canadian Rockies which we passed.

The US dollar is equal to 1.03 Canadian dollars.

We hope to drive 500 miles tomorrow. Roads are good and the speed limits are 62 mph.

13 aug

We drove from Fort St John to Watson Lake (550 miles), where half of the business were closed and only one restaurant in town. There is a sign forest there with thousands of road signs on posts. Saw caribou (picture attached) on the side of the road. Next day drove to Dawson City along the very large Yukon river. The attached picture of the Five Fingers was a major problem for the riverboats. All the freight was carried on riverboats that went between Whitehorse and Dawson City.

We are now in Dawson City, Yukon the site of the Klondike gold rush. Sharon panned for gold, using the wok we carried on the pack trip, and found one flake. She got the paydirt from the hill behind the stream, which is 1.5 miles upstream from the original strike that started the gold rush in 1897. Sun goes down at 11 PM and comes up at 6 AM. The attached picture of the large dredge shows how gold was mined here in the Yukon. The dredge moved 7 miles from its construction point up the valley before operations were stopped in 1966. The gold was in the gravel under the muck. Lots of piles of rocks all around Dawson City.

To put the trip on perspective, I have attached a map of Canada and notice Dawson City in the middle western part of the Yukon at the same latitude, 64 degrees, as Fairbanks, AK. We have driven 3400 miles so far and are almost at the top of our trip.

Jim and Sharon

16 aug email

Hello from the Yukon,

Right after I sent last email, we went up to Midnight dome (500foot high) and on the way down the motor stopped and I couldn't get it started. Lots of local people stopped to help and eventually a RMCP off duty guy towed us with our tow strap 1 mile to the garage. This was on Sunday night and the next morning, a bad fuel pump was diagnosed. The part had to come from Whitehorse 325 miles away and arrived the next morning (Tuesday) and the car was fixed by 1030.

This allowed us to hike back into Dawson City and look at all the sites we had missed the previous day. Museum, ferry, cemeteries, stern wheeler boneyard. Ate dinner and then hiked the 1.5 miles back to our motel, which was across the street from the garage.

Tuesdaymorning, after the car was fixed, we drove up the Dempster highway (gravel, but good surface , 50 mph few potholes.) to the arctic circle. My GPS indicated that the monument was not on the arctic circle. I will look at google earth when we get to an internet site in the evening. The last two nights have not had any internet service.

We stayed at the Eagle Plains hotel, just south of the arctic circle. It was more of a truck stop, but was the only lodging 200 miles in each direction. On the way up the Dempster highway it rained and the car got all muddy on the sides and back. I had to wash the license plate and the tail lights off to see them.

Wednesday morning we started south after reaching the most northern point of our trip. The rain had stopped, but now we drove at 30 mph in a dense fog for 2 hours. We stopped at Tombstone National park and did a little hike. Then stayed Wednesday night at a rustic cottage (no electricity, or water, but had a bathroom with a shower close by). I woke up at 200 am and went outside and lo and behold there were the northern lights overhead. What a sight.

I am writing this Thursday at noon and will send it from a Wifi hot spot in Mayo. We have come off the main highway to tour the "Silver trail). Weather has turned warm 80s in the afternoon. Beautiful for tourism, but the cold weather here in the far north is not far behind. Some of the trees are turning red already.

As I write this, Sharon was gold panning and got a few flakes.

Attached is picture of the arctic tundra, 'the next pic in a separate email shows the arctic circle.

Jim and Sharon 16 aug 07

17 aug email

Not too much to report on since yesterday, but tomorrow(Saturday) we are going down a highway in the middle of nowhere.

We stayed at a cabin in Carmack on the Yukon river. We sat on the bank and watched the water go by. The natives were up until the bar closed and made noise until 230. It gave me a chance to look for the northern lights, but they were a no show last night.

The Yukon river was the main route the stampeders took in 1898. They would take a ship to Skagway in Alaska (all you Alaskan cruisers know where Skagway is) and then over Chilcoot pass, down Bennett Lake to the Yukon river and then downstream to Dawson City. In 1899 the White Pass railroad was built and took them to Whitehorse and then down the Yukon River to Dawson on a steamboat. I have attached a pic of the Keno, now at Dawson, which was the last stern wheeler on the Yukon. It was a tough trip to get to the gold fields at Dawson. All the claims were taken for the later stampeders.

Enough history.

We are now sitting on a porch at a cabin on the Alaska highway and having a drink.

Gas is expensive. The most we paid was \$5.62 per gallon on the Dempster highway.

The next and previous gas station were 240 miles away. The gas in lower BC is \$4.25 per gallon. The Canadian dollar is almost the same as the American dollar, so there is no conversion to mitigate the cost. This weekend is labor day in Canada with Monday the holiday. Hope this doesn't keep us from finding a place to stay.

Jim and Sharon

20 aug email

Saturday morning we tried to get gas at the junction of highway 37 and the Alaskan highways. Both gas stations were out of gas and we almost had a heart attack. But we went back 1 km to the cabin where there was a gas station (they don't call them gas stations up here, they are gas bars) and filled up. Down the remote highway we went and when a fast car passed us on a gravel section, a crack appeared in the windshield as a rock was thrown back. A ¼" to the left and the rock would have hit the frame. We stopped at a lovely cabin with a nice view over a lake to the mountains behind it. On the trail to the lake, we saw some fresh bear scat but didn't see the bear.

On Sunday we drove to Stewart on the border with Alaska. Went to Alaska twice with no border checking at all on the US side, but each time the Canadians had to check our ID when we returned. (Bush is now up in Canada talking with the Canadians and the Mexicans about the border. They are also talking about the arctic ocean, which the Canadian claim all of.) The road is dead ended there after 20 miles. There was a tourist site where the bear come to eat the salmon in the river, but no bears. Lots of salmon going up stream to spawn. They look bad and almost dead. Further up the road we saw the Salmon glacier. The picture is attached here. Quite a sight as the glacier turn left on the way down the canyon. Alas the road up to the glacier goes from Alaska to BC. The road in Alaska was terrible, but the BC road was fine. Bad government here in the US.

Monday we thought was a holiday but only a holiday in Whitehorse. Boy were we confused. We are now in Burns Lake, which is 200 miles west of :Prince George, which is 300 miles north of the border. Weather has cooled off with some rain.

Roads are very good here in Canada as long as you stay on the paved roads.

JIM and SHARON
20 August 2007

Email 25 August 2007

Well postcard fans, the trip is about over. We are in Anacortes at a friend's house. Anacortes is 60 miles nw of Seattle. We crossed the border (30 minutes, wrong lane as usual) at Sumas, WA. We finally used the camping equipment for one night at a campground by Mt Baker. The next day we drove to the end of the road for a short hike and some picture taking. The attached picture is of Mt Baker in the clouds. Mt Baker is the high mountain that can be seen NE of Seattle. We are weary of staying at motels, eating in restaurants, etc. We will end up in Hermosa Beach sometime in the coming week. We have a lot of memories of the sights we found in BC and the Yukon. The car is still running ok except for the cracked windshield on the driver's side. Only 1228 miles to go. Already 6200 miles under our belt.

Jim and Sharon

