

Past Tents

Mental meandering by SOLAR historian..... vol. 11

Most every month (you may have notice I took last month off) we will dig into our archives and ponder on the past and present minutia of our club.....

I hope in the future to also be a bit of a document of record and comment on current event and perhaps give a historical context. Welcome to my mad mad world of run on sentences and mental meandering

Vacation threw History

As mentioned in the pramble of this volume, I took some time off in March and that through off my writing and since this SOLAR historian chair position is not a paying gig and it give me power and position to make my own rules, I put off my chores and gave myself some time off.....BUT.....since I am a buff, all my vacation dealt with history, forts, cities, culture, food, more food and lots of driving.

I went through seveal cities that many government flags flew over and I paid attention to how the cities grew and usually went to the oldest parts first, go to the port, the rail or road/gap/trail/path that started it all. Lots to learn, old homes, chruches, government buildings. To inspire travel and to fill space in this issue here are a few from the oldest European settlement, Saint Augustine. I didn't know they burnt its fort seven times before they (the Spanish) built it of stone.... Then there were the rich folks who built rail roads and Hotels that changed the fate and future of the town. Layer uppon layer people building on the stepping stones of the past. I also visited older cultures and claims, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, with a history that speaks of migration, refugees and finding a home intertwine with being a stepping stone and surviving and making a place. Michigan has ceeeded lands and manifest destiny and history in which we resound, our state, our city, our home, much like Floriadia, the richer moved through the world like it was theirs, perhaps it is for a little while to hold onto, perhaps to soon to relinquish, release or depart.....the wall of a fortress stand in contrast to my hope we will find a way to share our world and posess it not from every other.....





Hystorical Recomdations

Top Towns Found on recent road trip – history filled and dynamic

New Bern NC – served as North Carolina colonial government aka Athens of the South

Georgetown SC – third oldest city in the state

St. Augustine FL – oldest continusly occupied European settlement in contiguous US

Miridian MS – long time cross roads – long history bright future

As special runner up because they have a great state park and fort to visit

Amelia Island FL see Fort Clinch – history is not often attractive but this is a top visit and pretty too, also home to oldest bar in the state....

With appologies to Mr Rogers

I was thinking about doing an installment on the equipment lending that SOLAR does and I had the perfect tital, it was a bit long :

‘ I just dropped in to see what condition my equipment was in ‘

Remember you can log into the SOLAR site to see what gear you can borrow and get out and about with.....click or type this following link and sing along...with Kenny....modified slightly.....

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AULOC--qUOI>

I woke up this morning *thinking what I would be camping in*

I found my mind in *turmoil with decisions* within

I tripped on a *cloudless hike* and *an eight mile day*

I tore my mind *in a planning way*

I just dropped in to see what condition my *equipment* was in

Yeah, yeah, oh-yeah, what condition my *equipment* was in

I pushed my *trowel, dug* a deep dark hole and then I followed it in

I watched myself *freak out* as I was *logging in*

I got up so tight I couldn't unwind

I so much *equipment* I broke my mind

I just dropped in to see what condition *SOLAR's equipment* was in

Yeah, yeah, oh-yeah, what condition my *equipment* was in

Someone *aint no April Fool to get in line*

I had my foot on the gas, *got my gear* and blew out my mind

Eight miles outta *somewhere* and I got the *essentials here*

Elevation is killing me but I am getting somewhere

I'm glad I just dropped in to see what condition *the equipment* was in

I said I just dropped in to see what condition my *equipment* was in

Yeah

yeah

oh-yeah

Songwriters: (originally) Mickey Newbury

Gear Cave

Every meeting in the past year my gear hero, Phil comes up and talks about the equipment that our club has to offer its members, it is one of the top club benefits, second only to actually meeting at meetings and not just virtually online or at meetup. This benefit is so huge that Phil took pictures of the storage unit and it accordions out to arm length. I had him send them to me and I will try to stitch them together like he did. He also sent me pictures of a project that perhaps will someday come to fruition, you click on the gear from an on line list, you see it and get a demonstration of whatever, setting up a tent or lighting a stove. Until that fabulous future day you get to talk to the SOLAR gear guru as you pick up or better yet plan your trip. I have had great suggestion for tents that would better suit a trip as well as suggestion on equipment to test out. That human touch always makes a difference for me.



Imagine the gear wrapping around you, Tents, Backpacks, Pack Covers, Sleeping Bags, Stoves, Fuel Bottles, Cooking Gear, Water Filters, First Aid Kits, Hiking Poles, Snow Shoes, Snow Shovels, Lanterns, Gear Scales, Booksgives me that cozy prepared feeling

Faboluse Future Days..... Let us show you the way <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r0rDc05u00>



I have elevated Phil on a pedestal but perhaps I have raised him up to much on his own, he comes from a long line of folks that have taken care of gear from day one. I solicited for history of the tenders of equipment and following include some short stories they have provided, both the list and the story(s) follow no chronology and offer no more than enjoyment....

Gear Story

I am told that most every new equipment chairperson gets tent fever and sets up tents in their yard and like kids in a candy store root through all the gear to see which is what and what is who. Here is a story from Dave and Moe:

“Here's a little story first.

We were in charge of equipment during the time period when solar owned several windsurfers. During those days the club went to Rattlesnake conservation point every month to camp and rock climb. Next door was Kelso Lake where we could go to wash up swim or windsurf. Lynn Dabay borrowed one of the wind Surfers which consisted of the board the sail wrapped on the mast and the skeg and bow. We had this gear but we did not have experience lashing it on top of a car nor any of the foam cradle pieces. When was coming back from Canada with the board on top of her car. Held on by bungee cords. The wind took the board blew it off the car into the path of the car behind her. No one got hurt. No car got damaged. When she turns the board back in with her story, there was very little damage on the board. We were able to epoxy up the dents and it was good as new.

Now for some history

Maureen and I were equipment share people a couple of different times. The first time we lived in Southfield we're one of the few solar rights with a home that had a garage and a basement. We got the gear from Bill Halvangis who had previously kept them in a rental storage place in Farmington Hills. We would get together with other solar instructors once a year to inspect and clean the equipment so that it was suitable and safe to rent out. We collected a deposit which was returned if the equipment was in good shape and on time. But we did deduct it if we had to fix something or it was late because other solar people were waiting to use the same equipment. We moved out of Southfield after a shootout down the street and I think Carol McCririe volunteered after that. She did a great job organizing the gear and getting racks to store everything in. Then we took our turn again at the Home in Brighton and set up these racks in our furnace room which then looked like a little Warehouse of outdoor gear. The job entailed so much more than just giving out the equipment and getting it back. We had to see that it was in good shape or get it fixed. We had to try out the water filters to see if the ceramic filters needed to be changed. We had to light all of the stove to see that they worked in good fashion. We had to check the climbing ropes and carabineers to make sure they were not damaged and unsafe. And a lot of equipment was returned less than clean so we had to scrub and wash a number of items continuously. We had to keep an inventory of available equipment and pass it around so everyone knew what they could borrow. We had to procure and try out new gear to see if it was better then what we had and make it available. We had to chase down those people that did not return stuff on time. We also had to keep a supply of batteries and white gas for the equipment. Some of the gear was also fragmented as other people such as Leslie kept track of the caving equipment. Now go give Phil a big pat on the back.”

Gear Caretakers

Here is I am sure a partial list of SOLAR folks that have taken care of our equipment.....SALUTE and thanks

Phil Crookshank
Jeff McWilliams
Sue Segel
Dave Defrance
Moe Defrance
Carol McCririe
Leslie Cordova
Glenn Newa
Bill Hellvangas

If any of this sparked memories please feel free to send a note and I will try to weave it into commentary or include it whole for the record and history of our SOLAR club.