

**Captains Log**  
**2004 Trip 7**  
**Escape from Frances**

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

This is our seventh trip this year. This one is not by choice. We came home from our trip up north for two reasons. First, Lora had a blood clot on her lung and knowing how dangerous that is and her reaction made us want to be at home. Second, I need to get the CPAP machine. My apnea is getting worse and I am exhausted all the time. That does not make for an enjoyable trip. So we arrived in Palm Bay on the 24<sup>th</sup> of August.

Lora has recovered from the blood clot and x-rays indicate the filter in the Vena Cava has moved a little which let the clot through, but no more are evident.

Then a new problem loomed. Hurricane Frances was forecast to hit central Florida, near Palm Bay with winds of 140kts. As Frances got closer it became clear that we had to get out of town. Josie and I buttoned up the house, got all the important papers and things that can't be replaced collected and placed in either the Excursion or the Airstream and on Wednesday the first of September, left for the Florida Panhandle.

We asked Lora to come with us with Steven and Vanessa. She had planned a trip to Virginia for the Labor Day weekend anyway, so she decided to go there.

Off we went. Up I-95 to 192 and out to the Florida Turnpike. Up the Turnpike to I-75 to I-10 to Fort Walton Beach, Florida. Hurlburt Field is there and we pulled into the FamCamp on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The sites in the FamCamp are very nice. Better than any we have stayed on at commercial campgrounds. One problem, they have no cable. We stayed there Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. On Sunday Frances was forecast to be in the Panhandle on Monday so we decided to move west to Biloxi MS and Keesler AFB FamCamp.

We left Hurlburt at 10am on Sunday and pulled into Keesler around 1:40pm. They had two sites left and we took one. As luck would have it, 12 sites don't have cable and those two were part of the 12. So, again no cable. We really want to see the Weather Channel. Frances made landfall on Saturday, at Vero Beach, about 30 miles south of Palm Bay.

So here we are. We got a call from Marion last night. John went to our house and it appears the only damage is to the roof on the Florida Room. The roof is "up in the air". I am not sure what that means, except that it separated from the walls. Since the room is attached to the house and is made of metal, the roof is not an integral part of the house. So, hopefully, that didn't damage the house.

Josie and I have decided to stay here for a few more days for several reasons. Last reports indicated that there was no gas to be had in the area. With the forced evacuation, gas stations were drained. We want to wait for power to be turned on so that when gas is available, it can be pumped. We want to wait for the infrastructure to be safe enough for travel and lastly, Hurricane (Crazy) Ivan, is aiming at Florida and expected to be in the area by Sunday. This means three Hurricanes in as many weeks. So what did Florida do to deserve this. Is this the Democrats revenge for the Bush election in 2000?

Stay tuned for more of the saga.

Thursday, September 09, 2004

Since Tuesday not much has changed with Crazy Ivan, Josie's name for Hurricane Ivan... I like it. It is now a Cat 5 hurricane and still headed for Florida or the Gulf of Mexico. I am not sure it is safe to go home with Crazy Ivan on the loose.

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Last night we went to dinner with Robyn and her daughter. We went to Cheryl's Steak house and had a delicious meal.

I washed the trailer yesterday. It was really dirty.