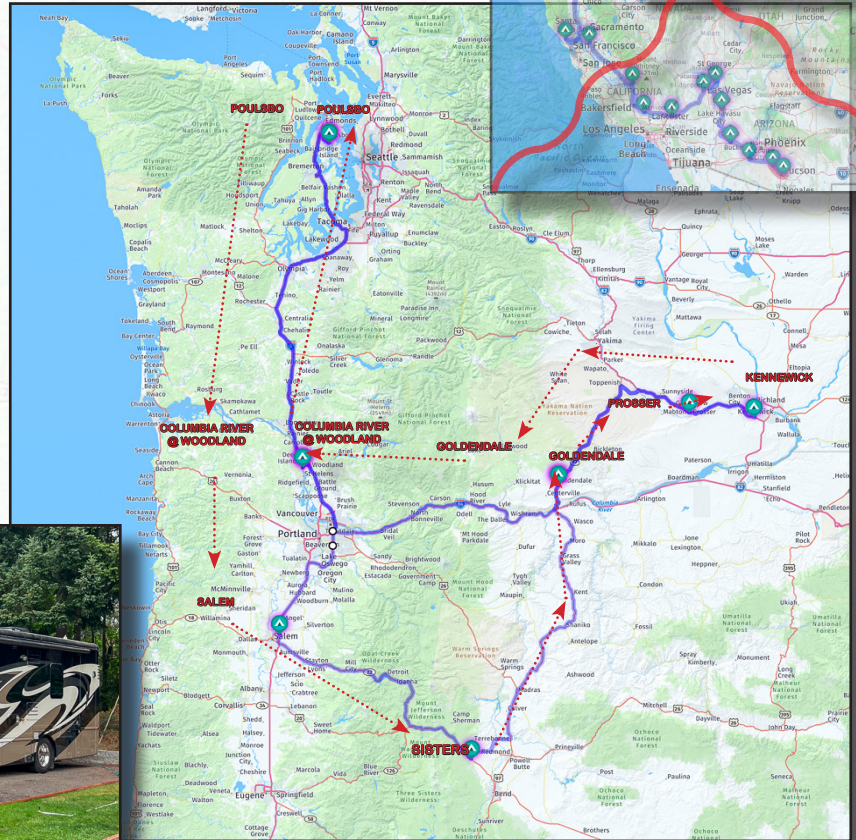
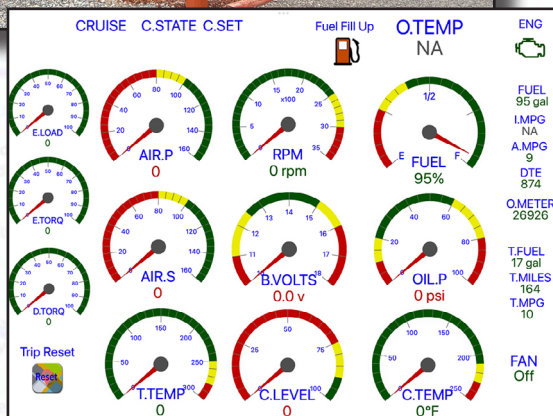


As we usually do, we took the MoHo out of storage and stayed a few days at a local RV park in order to prepare and stock it for travel.



After all systems checked out, we were fully packed and stocked, our first stop was along the banks of the Columbia River near Woodland, Washington. We had hoped to do a little birding nearby, but spent the next day finding emergency care for Wendy's Eventy reactions. In the end Wendy got treatment and we spent the time left enjoying the immediate surroundings of the RV park.





TUCSON OR BUST ... BUSTED

Over the years this riverfront RV park has been one of our favorites. We generally stay here for our first stop out of Poulsbo and the last stop before returning. There is always interesting things happening on the river right in front of the MoHo and nearby there are some great birding areas. We have recommended this RV park to many people, but as it is now harder than ever to book our favorite spots here, we are going to discontinue that for nothing more than selfishness.





TUCSON OR BUST ... BUSTED

Our next stop was overnight in Salem, Oregon and then east up into the Cascade Mountains to Sisters, Oregon for a few days.



A couple weeks before we left on this adventure my go-faster-excelerator foot encountered a very stout metal object and needed a bit of nursing after each day's drive. Cruise control offered great relief and was used often.



We found a nearby birding area that provided us with views of some birds we had never seen before ('Lifers' as official birders call them).

Mountain Bluebird



White-Breasted Nuthatch



White-Headed Woodpecker

TUCSON OR BUST ... BUSTED

Angeline's Bakery & Cafe became our Sisters Situation Room in the mornings.



We found a bike shop with a huge beer selection right next to an outside food court, IPAs were king here, but I chose an ale of questionable reputation to go with my lunch.



From Sisters we had planned for a few days of birding at the famous Malheur National Wildlife Refuge located roughly 30 miles south of the city of Burns in Oregon's Harney Basin, a days drive from Sisters for us. Friends that we were going to meet at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge were already there. Having spent a couple days looking for birds already, they said there were none (no water to attract them). We then adjusted our travels and reservations and headed north to Goldendale, Washington where we had planned to stop later in the trip anyway. That would make for two stops in Goldendale on this trip.

Sheriff Songer welcomed us to Goldendale.



TUCSON OR BUST ... BUSTED

Goldendale was originally planned as an intermediate stop between our visit to the eastern Washington wine country and going back to western Washington and then back up to Poulsbo. It is situated in a primarily agricultural area and is also near Goldendale Observatory State Park which seemed like it might be interesting. I'd read a long time ago that this area was a good place to come and star gaze. In fact, the RV park we booked to stay at was named "*Stargazer RV Resort*".

Goldendale has a population of about 4,000 and is the employment, business, commercial and banking center for the valley. In recent years Goldendale has suffered from severe economic decline. A local aluminum plant that once employed many residents closed and the loss of tax base has taken its toll on the funds available for maintaining the city's infrastructure. In recent years there has been an interest in installing wind turbines that would generate power. While it has provided some jobs, this industry has not been the economic solution for which many residents hoped.

We found a bright outdoor Situation Room just down the street from where we were staying and spent a couple of our morning planning sessions there.



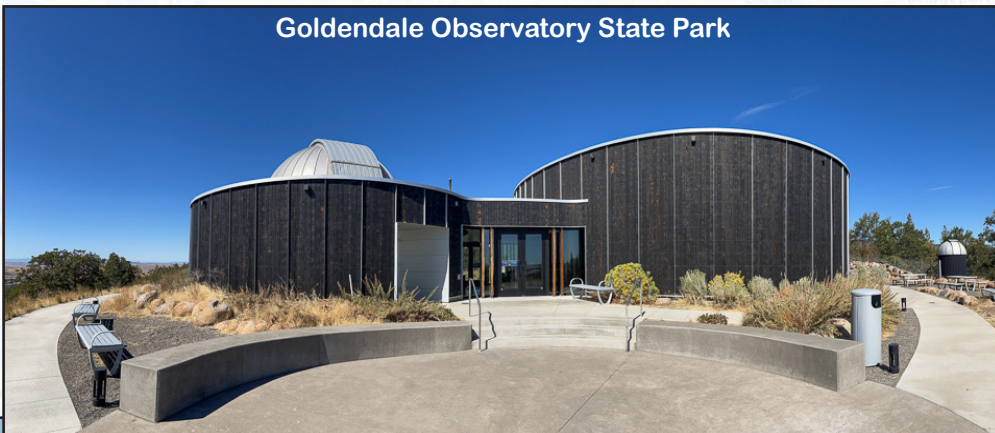
Mt. Hood, to the south and across the Columbia River in Oregon, is easily seen from many viewpoints in the area.





TUCSON OR BUST ... BUSTED

Goldendale Observatory State Park



Red-Shouldered Hawk



Turkey Vulture

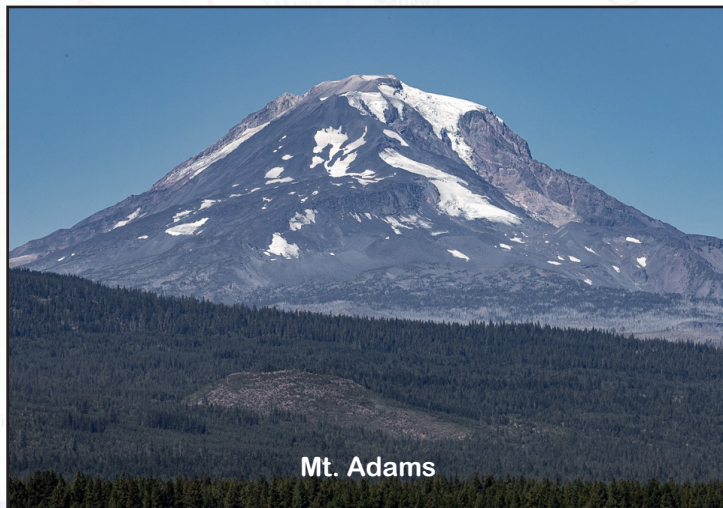


Boeing F/A-18F Super Hornet



TUCSON OR BUST ... BUSTED

One day we drove back west along the Washington side of the Columbia River towards Mt. Adams.



Mt. Adams



Glenwood Post Office

TUCSON OR BUST ... BUSTED



From Goldendale we headed further east to the Red Mountain AVA wine area. AVA means American Viticultural Area. Red Mountain is a premier wine region known for world class Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, Merlot and other varieties. The first vines were planted in 1975, and the AVA is now home to many of the state's most celebrated vineyards. AVA status was achieved in 2001.



We stayed in both Prosser and Kennewick. The Red Mountain AVA is between the two places and easily gotten to from either.

Red Mountain now hosts approximately fifty-four vineyards covering more than 2300 acres, making Red Mountain one of the most densely planted AVA's, but there is still room and they do continue to plant more.

They said the grapes for ready for harvest and they would be starting to harvest them the next week.



I found I could only do one tasting a day and still be able to make critical wine choice decisions. I still enjoyed the wine during further tastings, but my critical wine choices were a bit less accurate.

We enjoyed a couple days of wine tasting at the wineries and even a couple wine flights during meals.





TUCSON OR BUST ... BUSTED

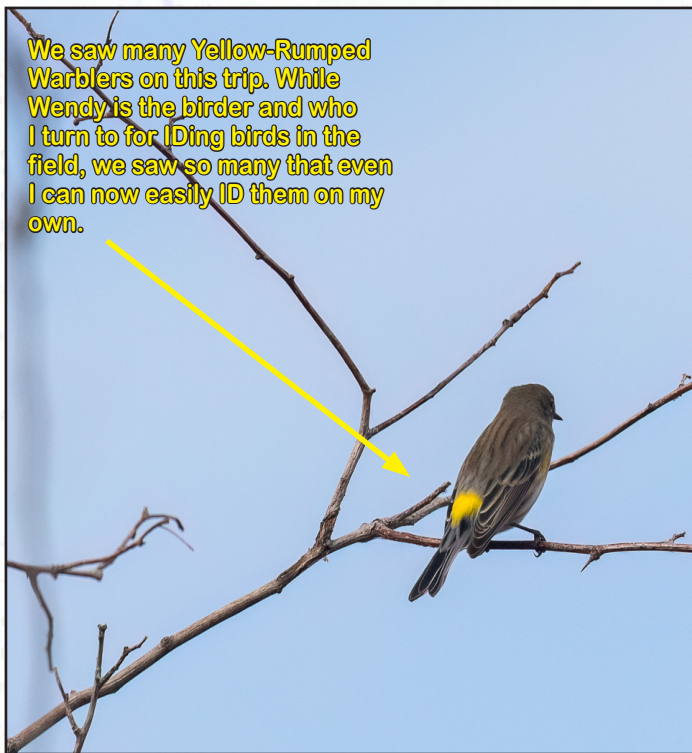
We did a little birding in the area as well. One spot that we will go back to should we be in that area again is the McNary National Wildlife Refuge in nearby Burbank. While still nursing my smashed toes and foot I chose not to carry much in the way of photography gear and lacked the proper gear to photograph masses of swallows that were there. Outside of the poor light that day, it was the best photographic opportunity for swallows I have ever seen.

There is a certain lack of respect towards other birds from Starlings it seems.



Barn Swallow getting a bug.

We saw many Yellow-Rumped Warblers on this trip. While Wendy is the birder and who I turn to for IDing birds in the field, we saw so many that even I can now easily ID them on my own.



Townsend's Warbler



DNR Fire-Bird



TUCSON OR BUST ... BUSTED

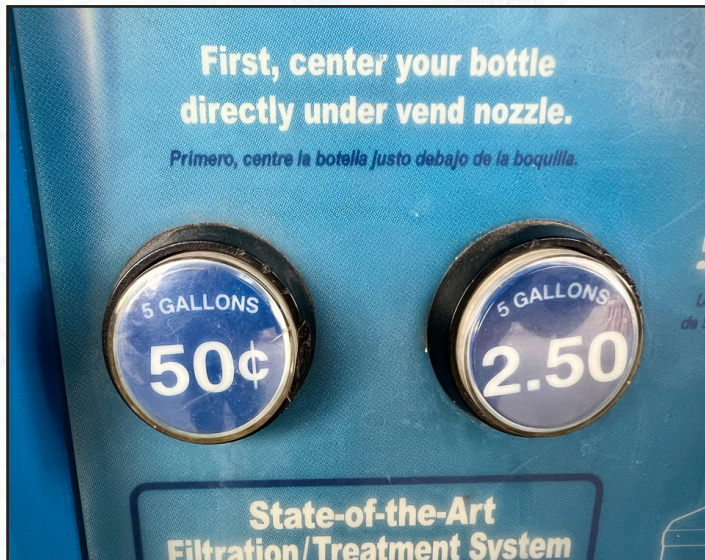
As we left Kennewick for our second stop at Goldendale, I was required to take a math test before refilling our water supply.

We spent one of the days at Goldendale exploring nearby Maryhill, a small town of about 50 people on the Columbia River. There are a couple of attractions there, the Maryhill Stonehenge Memorial, the Maryhill Museum of Art, and the Maryhill State Park.

Maryhill is named after the wife and daughter of regional icon Sam Hill, who purchased land and envisioned a community there shortly after the turn of the 20th century.

Hill used his Maryhill property to build the first paved roads in the Pacific Northwest, the Maryhill Museum of Art, (originally intended as a grand residence for the Hills), the Maryhill Stonehenge, (a monument to the World War I casualties of Klickitat County in the form of a Stonehenge replica), and a planned community. Born a Quaker, Hill hoped to attract a Quaker community to eastern Washington. His plans never materialized and the town buildings he constructed burned down several years later.

Hill intended the Stonehenge replica to express that modern warfare was a form of needless human sacrifice, referencing the contemporary belief that Stonehenge was a sacrificial site.



A view of Oregon's Mt. Hood from Maryhill. with the bridge over the Columbia River to Biggs Junction, Oregon in the foreground.



We checked out the fuel prices at Biggs Junction from Maryhill as we would stop there for fuel when we continued our trip west to Woodland, Washington in a couple days.

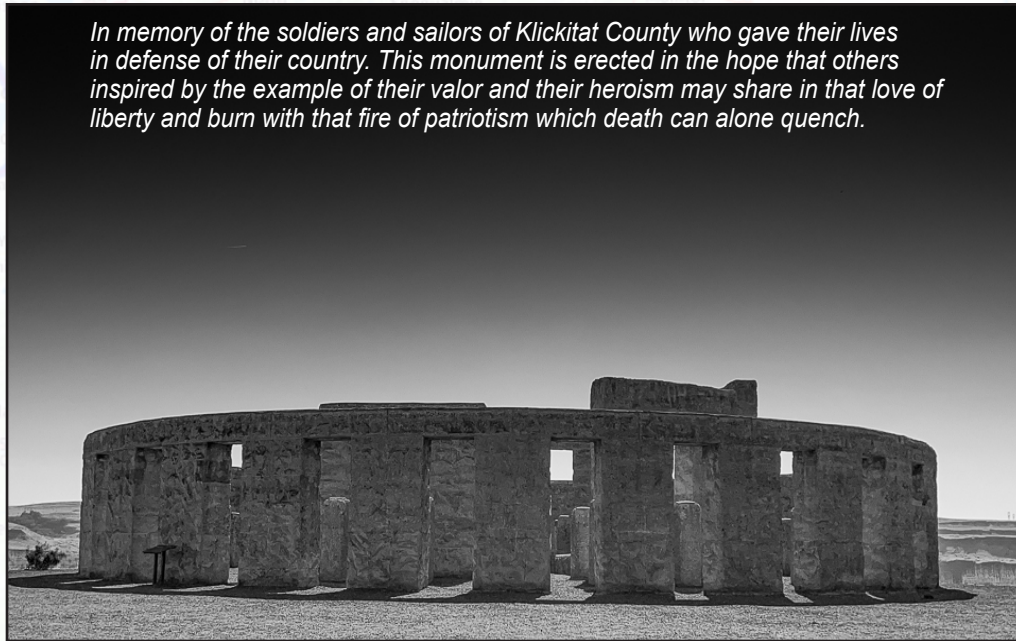
TUCSON OR BUST ... BUSTED

The Maryhill Stonehenge was the first monument in the USA to honor the dead of World War I. In particular, soldiers from Klickitat County, who had died in the then-ongoing war. The altar stone is placed to be aligned with sunrise on the summer solstice. Following the then-prevalent interpretation of Stonehenge, Hill thought that the original monument had been used as a sacrificial site. He commissioned the replica as a reminder that humanity is still capable of being sacrificed to the god of war.

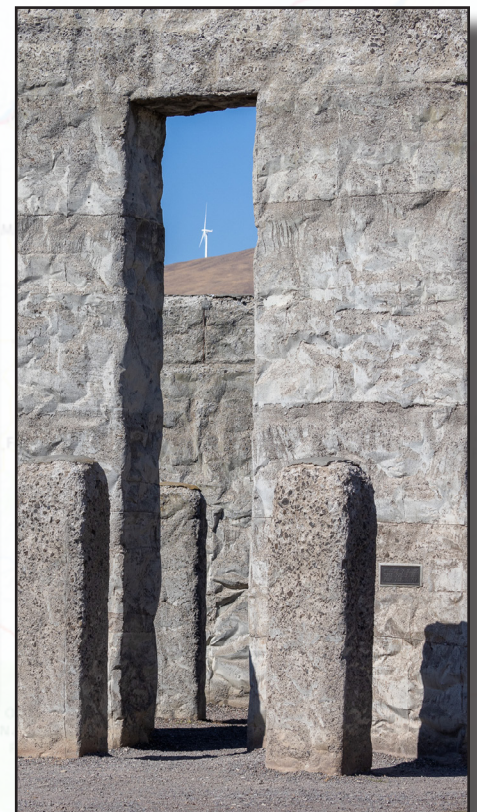
The monument is located within the former site of the town of Maryhill; the town later burned down, leaving only the concrete replica standing.

The dedication plaque on this Washington Stonehenge is inscribed:

In memory of the soldiers and sailors of Klickitat County who gave their lives in defense of their country. This monument is erected in the hope that others inspired by the example of their valor and their heroism may share in that love of liberty and burn with that fire of patriotism which death can alone quench.



Next to the Maryhill Stonehenge is the nearby monuments to the soldiers of Klickitat County who died in World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Afghanistan. These memorials are now part of the Maryhill Museum of Art.





TUCSON OR BUST ... BUSTED

We went on to the Maryhill Museum of Art to check in on some of my favorites there. Our first trip to this place years ago was inspired because they have some Rodin pieces here and Rodin is one of my favorite artists. The plaster and bronze sculptures and watercolors by Auguste Rodin there include versions of some of his most important works: *The Burghers of Calais*, *The Thinker* and portions of *The Gates of Hell*.

As was mentioned before, the structure was originally intended as a mansion for entrepreneur Samuel Hill (1857-1931), and was designed by architects Hornblower and Marshall. As the town was, the museum was named Maryhill for Hill's wife, daughter of James J. Hill, a Great Northern Railroad baron, and was intended to be used as a home at which they could entertain Samuel Hill's school friend King Albert I of Belgium. Construction was halted upon America's entry into World War I. The unfinished museum building was dedicated on November 3, 1926 by Queen Marie of Romania, and was opened to the public on Hill's birthday (May 13) in 1940.



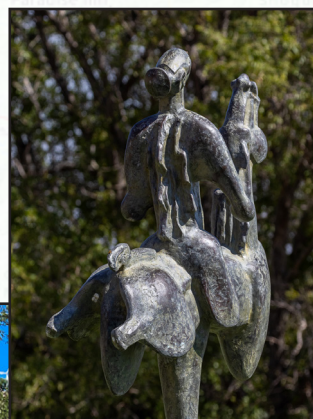
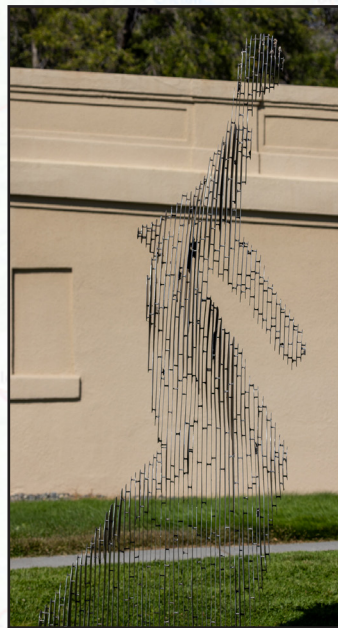
Some of Maryhill's more than 300 chess sets from around the world.





TUCSON OR BUST ... BUSTED

Another favorite of ours at the Maryhill Museum is the outdoor sculpture and sculpture park containing works by Pacific Northwest artists.



A perfect spot for a picnic, surrounded by outdoor sculpture.



TUCSON OR BUST ... BUSTED

From our days in the Goldendale area we headed west, taking the bridge over to Bigg's Junction in Oregon for diesel fuel and then west on Oregon's Interstate 84 as we felt it would be an easier drive to Interstate 5 on the Oregon side.

Back in western Washington and our last stop before returning to Poulsbo, we stopped again along side the Columbia River near Woodland and were greeted with what in the Northwest we refer to as the *Big Dark* (winter).



Maryhill's gas station.



As we mentioned before, when we got back to Poulsbo and Wendy went in for her next Evenity osteoporosis treatment we got such mixed information and concerns about the adverse reactions she had on this trip we decided not to go onto Tucson for the winter and stay at home where any further adverse reactions could be dealt with much more easily.

So, we are adjusting our Flying Pig Adventures for this winter but our Danube-Main-Rhine river cruise next spring and our seven month adventure to New Zealand next winter are still on schedule.

.END



The Flying Pig Adventures MoHo work station.