

Half Moon Bay – July 19-22, 2007

Traveling solo to Half Moon Bay, CA I parked in the Gold economy parking lot at Dulles. A shuttle bus was approaching, so I grabbed my bags and jumped out of the mini-van and onto the bus. After a couple minutes, I realized that I'd left my cell phone in the mini-van. So I got off at the next stop and ran across two lots carrying my laptop in one hand and my overnight bag in the other. I almost made it back to the mini-van when my shorts fell down – no belt. After regrouping, I decided to change into jeans and leave the baggy shorts in the mini-van. While changing in the mini-van, a 2nd bus pulled up – I waved him on and finished changing. Then I stood there for 20 minutes before a 3rd bus came. That bus stopped, let a couple people off and told me I'd have to wait for the next bus. A 4th bus came in less than a minute, but it didn't stop. It was another 5 minutes before a 5th bus came – 5th time's the charm.

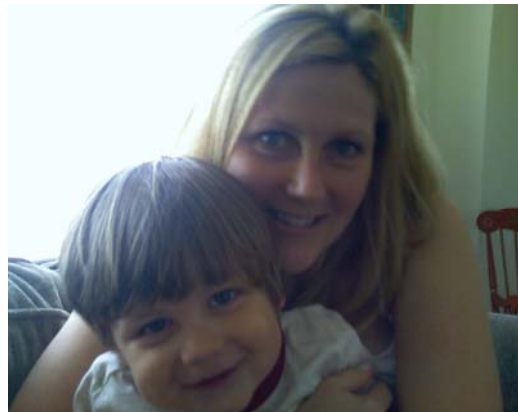
I got my boarding pass and headed to security where I was stopped because my toothpaste was 4.2 oz, which exceeded the 3 oz limit. I observed that it was almost completely empty and that there couldn't possibly be even 1 oz left, let alone more than 3. Logic prevailed and... No, not really – she threw it away.

I raced to my gate because I was cutting it pretty close at this point, only to find that the flight was delayed an hour.

Once I arrived in Oakland, getting to the hotel in Mountain View was a piece of cake thanks to GPS. My brother Michael and I stayed up and watched *The Professional* instead of going to sleep like we should have.

Friday morning we went to Castro Street and had a great Mediterranean breakfast, then stopped by for a quick visit with Celeste and Mateo.

We headed “over the hill” (a term used to denote travel to or from Half Moon Bay). Along the way we stopped at the vista point across from the Filoli House (the house in the TV series *Dynasty*) and the reservoir.



Half Moon Bay is the Pumpkin Capitol of the World. About every other year Half Moon Bay is responsible for producing the largest pumpkin in the US, such as this 1,229 pound behemoth from 2006. And the

Pumpkin Festival brings hundreds of thousands to this sleepy little coastal town every year.

Maverick's is a world-famous surfing location in Northern California. It is located approximately one-half mile from shore in Pillar Point Harbor, just north of Half Moon Bay. After a strong winter storm has occurred in the northern Pacific Ocean, waves can routinely crest at over 25 and top out at over 50 feet. The break is caused by an unusually-shaped underwater rock formation.



Maverick's is a destination for some of the world's premier big wave surfers. Very few riders become big wave surfers; and of those, only a select few are willing to risk the hazardous conditions at Maverick's. An

invitation-only contest is held there every few winters, depending on wave conditions.

In the evening, we went to the Half Moon Bay Brewing Company, which is where Maverick's beer is brewed.



Saturday started off at Mimi's Café in San Jose, and ended with my 30-year class reunion at the IDES hall on Main Street in Half Moon Bay. There were more than



500 attendees, but none of the people that I hung out with were there except for my ex-roommate Jeff Clark - the only active ambidextrous big wave surfer in the world, and the person that discovered Maverick's.



Moss Beach Distillery to celebrate. We all ordered something different and

Sunday was Mom's birthday, and we ate brunch at the



there were so many people – and that makes me wonder who else I missed. No worries – It was great to see my family.

everything was good. We finished our mimosas on the patio, and then made our way to the Half Moon Bay Inn where we drank beer and discussed poetry – nope, not kidding.

I finished the day with vegetarian tamale at Three Amigos, and then made the arduous trek back home to DC.

After I got home I found out that a good friend from back in the day, Kathleen, had been at the reunion but we didn't see each other because

