



Welcome to Rott's Manor

Pete & Mary Clukey

Maine 2007 Trip Report

8/28/2007 (Tuesday) – We left ATL around 9am and landed in Portland right around noon. We took the hotel shuttle from the airport to the Holiday Inn by the Bay. It was early and we didn't expect them to have our room ready, we just wanted to drop off our bags before heading out to the waterfront area for lunch. The Holiday Inn was packed with a convention going on, and they didn't have a room ready, but they did store our bags for us.

So off we went for a walk to the waterfront. We had lunch at DiMillo's Floating Restaurant (<http://www.dimillos.com/restaurant/index.html>). Pete had a yummy lobster roll & Mary had the fried scallops... yummy.

After lunch we signed up for the Downeast Duck Adventure (<http://www.downeastducktours.com/>). This was a lot of fun and educational too. We learned something about Maine that we had observed but never really noticed... just about every town in Maine has a war memorial, mainly for the Civil War soldiers. Of all the states in the Civil War, Maine had the highest number of fallen soldiers.

With our minds full of Portland Maine trivia, we returned to the hotel. Our room was ready and we spent an hour or so settling in, before heading back out for shopping & dinner.

We stumbled upon a great find down a cobblestone alley. Gritty's Portland Brew Pub (<http://www.grittys.com/portland.php>). We had a nice little dinner here. And Pete really enjoyed the "cold barely soup" (aka dark dark beer).

8/29/2007 (Wednesday) – We checked out of the Holiday Inn and started our journey up the coast... with just one little diversion to the south of Portland first. Mary had read about this little candy factory where they have a life sized chocolate moose... well, sometimes you just have to go off the beaten path to look at the "odd" things we humans create. Len Libby Chocolates (<http://www.lenlibby.com/>) has been in business for a long time, they still make their candies by hand and they give out samples.

After a few quick snapshots of “Lenny”, we were back on the road again. We headed north up the coast to Fort Popham (http://www.maine.gov/cgi-bin/doc/parks/find_one_name.pl?park_id=40). This was a really neat stop.

Leaving Fort Popham, it was time to find some lunch. And Pete had planned the drive perfectly so that we would be passing by a famous Maine landmark, Moody’s Diner (<http://www.moodydiner.com/>). We enjoyed their clam rolls & onion rings.

Back on the road again, the next scheduled stop was to be in Camden Hills, but when we passed an antique shop with the stern of a ship as its entrance and a huge sailing ship weathervane in the yard, well, we just had to stop in to look around.

We finally made it to Camden Hills, we climbed the tower for a great view back down to the ocean. Pete had fun exploring the few trails leading down the hill. The afternoon was fading fast, so we didn’t spend much time here. We had dinner plans with Pete’s sister & his mom in Unity Maine.

Before dinner, we have to check into the Belfast Harbor Inn (<http://www.belfastharborinn.com/>) and clean off the road dust. It’s not too far up the coast. However, there is still some neat stuff to stop & look at. Totally unexpected and unplanned was a stop to this really amazing art gallery, Northport Landing Gallery (<http://www.northportlandinggallery.com/>). If we ever win the lottery, we will be calling these people.

We check into the hotel and get an upgrade to an ocean view room (yeah). After a quick clean up and change, we’re back on the road again heading to Unity for a visit with family. It is just a short walk from Chris’ to the pizza parlor. One thing we really miss is they flavor of pizza from Maine. They use real fresh hamburger meat, not some frozen spiced up mystery meat that they use down here in Georgia. After dinner, we went back to Chris’ for a visit. It was past Madeline’s bedtime and she wasn’t too happy about going to bed and missing time with Uncle Pete. We didn’t visit too long, because Chris is still in college and had some homework/studying to do.

8/30/2007 (Thursday) – Lots of stops today as we make our way to Bar Harbor, so we check out of the hotel and get back on the road again.

Mary had noticed that just down the road from our hotel was Perry’s Nut House (<http://www.perrysnuthouse.com/>). It’s a place that Mary used to go to when she was a young child. They use to have a museum upstairs. They sell nuts, candy, and lots of other touristy stuff. Mary really enjoyed this romp down memory lane.

Our first scheduled stop of the day was to Fort Point & its light house (<http://www.maine.gov/doc/parks/programs/history/fortpownall/pownall.htm>) (<http://www.maine.gov/doc/parks/programs/history/fortpownall/history.htm>). It was an interesting stop, but not much left of the actual fort.

Next we stopped at the Narrows Observatory Bridge (<http://www.penobscotnarrowsbridge.com/bridge.html>). This new bridge has a tall tower that allows visitors a great view up the river towards Fort Knox (<http://fortknox.maineGuide.com/>) and down the river towards the ocean. The views were amazing. Then we explored Fort Knox, another place that we remember from our youth. This was a great day for exploring this fort; we practically had the whole place to ourselves.

Now it was past lunch time and Mary, well she does get moody when she's hungry. We are still about an hour's drive to our scheduled lunch stop at the Castine Variety (<http://www.castinevariety.com/>) for a lobster roll voted as Maine's best. The lobster roll was worth the drive and the wait. After devouring the lobster roll & chips, we walked down to the waterfront for ice cream. We had fun walking up the pier looking at all the ships the Maine Maritime Academy (<http://www.mainemaritime.edu/>) has docked in Castine.

We made our way up the coast to the Bar Harbor area where we hiked around the top of Cadillac Mountain (<http://www.acadia.ws/cadillac-mountain.htm>) in Acadia National Park (<http://www.nps.gov/acad/>). We were running out of daylight. So, we made a quick run into Bar Harbor for some sightseeing & shopping. We wanted to spend more time exploring Mt. Desert Island, so we made the decision to come back tomorrow before making our planned drive inland to Dexter. We called our hotel, the Lucerne Inn (<http://www.lucerneinn.com/>), in Dedham to see if we could change our reservations, but it's the holiday weekend and we couldn't, nor did they have availability for tomorrow night. So after shopping, we drove about an hour got checked into the Lucerne and changed for dinner. Dinner at the Lucerne was excellent.

8/31/2007 (Friday) – This was our earliest morning of the trip yet. We had lots of exploring to do. So we checked out of the Lucerne and headed back to the coast to Bar Harbor. While shopping yesterday in Bar Harbor Pete picked up a book on the carriage road trails in Acadia National Park. Pete had never hiked any of these trails. So, we made the decision to hang around the Bar Harbor area of Maine for one more night. That meant that the first order of business was to find a hotel for the night. We found a room at the Acadia Hotel (<http://www.acadiahotel.com/>) right off the square in Bar Harbor, a great location for taking in the Bar Harbor night life later.

Our exploring today took us to the non-touristy side of the island. Our first stop was at a beach on a lake. People were swimming, but there was no way that Mary was going to get anywhere near that cold water. Back on the road again, Pete drove and we pulled off into just about every scenic overlook. It was a foggy overcast morning which added to the ambiance. We found a great little hike at one area; through the woods for a ways before the coast line appeared. There were blooming wild rose bushes along the way.

We stopped in one little town, where we walked out onto the pier to see what the locals were catching while fishing. Right next to the pier was a little oceanarium (<http://www.theoceanarium.com/oceanswhsite.html>) that we visited.

Soon it was lunch time, Mary reference a guide and found an advertisement for Thurston's Lobster Pound (<http://www.acadiainfo.com/thurstons.htm>). This was a great find with lots of character. Mary had a lobster and Pete had another lobster roll.

After lunch we headed back towards the touristy side of the island. We had a great hike at Beech Mountain (<http://www.acdiamagic.com/beech-mountain.html>). At the top of the sometimes steep trail is an observation tower which you can climb up for even better views.

Daylight was fading, so we headed back to Bar Harbor with just one little detour to the Atlantic Brewing Company (<http://www.atlanticbrewing.com/>). We missed the last tour of the brewery for the day, but we were able to join in on a sampling in their store. Besides beer, they "brew" homemade root beer and a very tasty Blueberry soda.

Back in Bar Harbor, we had one more thing to do on our list before bedtime; take in the comedy show at Improv Acadia (<http://www.improvacadia.com/>). This was hilarious.

9/1/2007 (Saturday) – We got up early again. It was going to be a long day. Before leaving Mt. Desert Island we wanted to hike one of those carriage road trails (<http://www.acdiamagic.com/carriage-roads.htm>). Pete had picked out the perfect trail. It was suppose to have a beautiful waterfall that backdrops one of the old stone bridges. The only problem, we weren't in Maine during the "rainy" season so the waterfall was all but dried up. Still it was a wonderful hike.

We left Mt. Desert Island and headed inland to Dexter (<http://www.dextermaine.org/>) where we had "loosely" planned to meet up with Mary's family before heading out for a hike to a B-52 crash site in Greenville Maine (<http://www.moosehead.net/history/B-52.html>).

We arrived in Dexter and visited briefly with Pete's Meme. Originally we had plans to stay with one of Pete's aunts, but there was a lot going on and with our schedule (or lack of schedule) we thought it would be best if we checked into the Brewster Inn (<http://www.brewsterinn.com/>).

After settling in at the inn, we met up with Mary's sister Kathy for lunch at a Chinese restaurant. After lunch, we joined up with Mary's mom then we all hopped in to Kathy's car and she chauffeured us up to Greenville. Ten miles back into the woods on dirt logging roads is the B-52 crash site. Waiting for us was Mary's nephew Adam and his friend. Pete impressed Adam with his knowledge of even the smallest pieces of debris.

Miraculously, we found our way out of the maze of logging roads. It was nearing dusk a great time of day for spotting moose and Kathy new of the best place to see them. Alongside the highway we joined about 4 other cars that were already waiting for the moose. Well, the moose didn't get the memo to come out for the tourist that night.

9/3/2007 (Sunday) – After yesterday, we slept in a bit. Today's plan was to head back to Greenville/Moosehead Lake for a float plane ride. Mary had never been in a float plane and really wanted to check that off her "to do" list.

Greenville was busy. Pete had picked out a particular company, Jack's Air Service, for our flight. The pilot was out with another couple, but would be back in about an hour. So, we went window shopping in downtown Greenville. We watched the passengers get on board the Miss Kate (<http://www.katahdincruises.com/>) who looked fully loaded for her brunch tour.

The Miss Kate was motoring by the dock as our pilot readied his plane for our tour. We told our pilot of our missed moose adventure last night, and he said well, let's see if we can't find you a moose. And he did find us a moose. She was grazing in a pond as we buzzed by. The flight was about an hour long with views of Mt Katahdin and dozens of lakes. While talking to the pilot, Pete discovered that Jack was also a graduate of Embry-Riddle University. Small world!

After our flight, we went to a restaurant in Greenville that was recommended by Mary's nephew. The food was good, but the service... well, they were busy and we got the "you're not from around here" service.

Today we did not hang around to see if the moose would appear, we headed back to Dexter. While we had some nice afternoon sunshine, Pete took some pictures of downtown Dexter. Then we visited with a few more of Pete's relatives. After dinner, we dropped in on Mary's nephew Mike, his wife BJ & their son Tucker. He was surprised; apparently he didn't even know we were in town.

9/3/2007 (Monday) – Our last day of vacation and we decided it would be another morning that we slept in. A little more visiting before we headed out of Dexter. We had an afternoon flight out of Portland which landed in ATL around 6PM, just in time for dinner.