



Canada Edition

Happy Trails

Notizen von Unterwegs

Juni 2016 Vol. 21

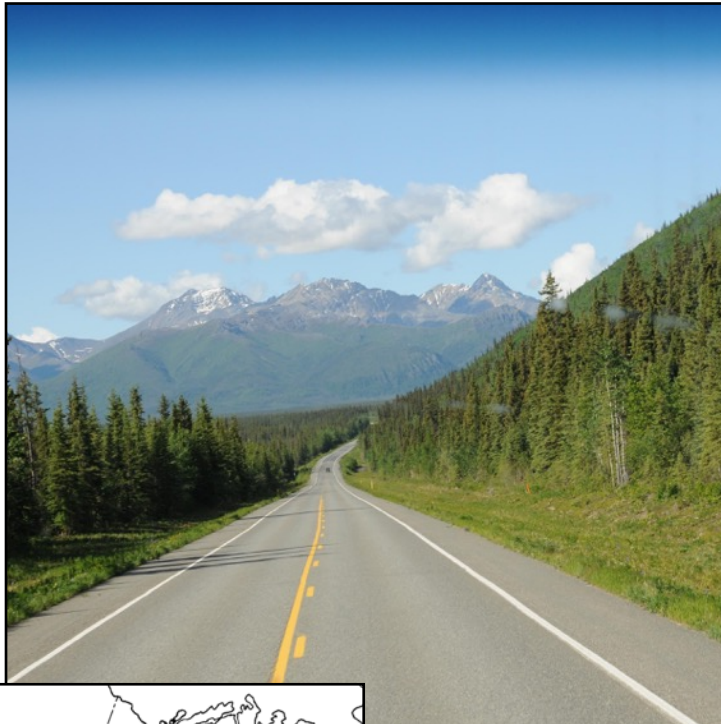
ALASKA HIGHWAY PART II

FROM WHITEHORSE VIA VALDEZ TO ANCHORAGE

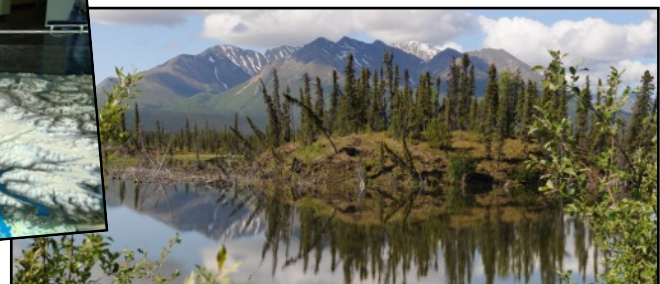
I mentioned it in the last newsletter: up here there is so much to report about. So I would need to be writing every single day. We take days off, not every day is full of adventures, but still we experience amazing things, I want to talk about. And since my camera is always with me (it is like an extra body part) I have plenty of pictures to commemorate every single thing. It keeps me honest of what we did the last couple of days and helps me write these newsletters better. And since the last newsletter: I just made 1676 new pictures. So, I just take the best of the best to show you a small portion of the adventures of Noah and his owners and let's see what I can write about.



After Whitehorse did we arrive in the wilderness, at least if you take the road as a measurement. Canada does not invest much in this road and my guess the reason for that is, that there is no more Canadian city afterwards. Who is on this road - wants to go to Alaska - just like us. So suffer!



On both sides of the road we have these endless forests, every few miles there is a opportunity to pull over and read on signs about the flora and fauna, historical facts. That way, the drive is not boring, We do not have the time to stop at every sign. But every time we stopped, we did not regret it, we learned so much - its unbelievable.







Out of sheer luck did we read about a boots ride to one of the glaciers, since the weather the next day was supposed to be great and the owner of the campground advised us to one. We book the trip the next day. With \$120 per person not a cheap voyage for a 7 hour excursion. But how often are you in Alaska?



After two days we reached Valdez in Alaska. Finally we can apply the state decal to our RV map outside the Alfa. 30 down 20 to go. Valdez is located at the end of a fjord and is the ending point for the Alaskan pipeline. Opposite of the city we can see were the crude oil is put on ships. But that does not make the visual of the city less appealing. I should say town, since there is not much to do here, or is there?

It ended up to be the best, most beautiful, impressive, best invested 11 hours on our 10 month trip so far.









if you want some more impressions here is my short movie from that day:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n_U4Hq44RYA



Breath taking is not coming close to describe the landscape of the glacier field here in Prince William Sound. Breaching wales, sea lions, dolphins, sea otter, puffins (the most colorful sea birds) and bald eagles in arms reach. On top of it: those glaciers which reach all the way to the water, icebergs which are calving off those glaciers and fall into the water. From time to time are we fully surrounded by ice!



After the captain stopped the engine, we were in an unreal atmosphere. The ice is alive- it cracks, in the distance you hear what sounds like thunder. We witness, how the icebergs break off the glacier and fall 300 feet deep, minutes later the mini tsunami reaches the boat and rocks it. Than silence again, besides the crackle of the ice. I cannot explain it, an amazing experience and once again: worth every cent. Afterwards we found out, that this kind of boats tour is only offered here, in Greenland or the Antarctica.



M/S LU-LU BELLE, VALDEZ

Other than the rest of the tours which are offered here in Valdez, the tour on board the M/S Lu-Lu Belle is very private. Only 20 people, lots of room, we can look at all the different rooms including the bridge and a one of a kind captain. He is a 30 year veteran in this job and knows every inch of the water and has a story for every bird, wale and oil tanker. Which makes the 10 hour trip fly by and informative. The inside of the boat is covered with mahogany wood, the floor has orient rugs and the inside and the outside has plenty of room. Like in most places in the USA, it is ok to bring your own food and beverages. Only thing the captain did not want on board is red wine, (must had have bad memories drinking it). For a normal fee did the galley provide food, drinks and snacks. We enjoyed our sandwiches and German Landjaeger we smuggled from Canada. Like I said: usually the tour takes 7 hours, but with such a captain who tells you a story here and a story there it took more time. There was no set plan, which was ok with us even though we had Noah back at the RV and he probably did start to get nervous. But typical to a dog no matter how late you come home: he is happy. Do this with your spouse Just kidding.





Bald Eagles in Valdez



so close - so beautiful - so awesome





Valdez is a MUST on your Alaska trip!





The first mountains higher than 16.000 feet Beate and I ever encountered in our live!
Mount Bona (16,550 ft) und Mount Blackburn (16,390 ft). That is something special!





After so much nature we enjoyed a few days of rest.

In which we watched the European soccer championship as well as the Copa America. As usual we had great food and we used the opportunity to hit the local supermarkets here in Anchorage. By the way Alaska does not have value-added tax (VAT) so everything is almost tax free.



our first moose



even here:

book exchange for free



a Boss Hoss tow's everything!

LOST AND FOUND: WAS SONST UNS SO BESCHÄFTIGTE

THE ANSWER TO THE QUIZ:
wait for the next newsletter

you can reach us under:

gefeke@freenet.de

(915) 667 - 0501 or (915) 667 - 0595

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Until than, we are now 328 days
on the road

What a great life!

Your 3 Gefeke's

