

Maritime Trip Day 36 September 27, 2010 50 degrees F, Wet from raining

We left the campground early (8:00 am) and stopped at a McDonald's for drive through breakfast! Bill and Wayne wanted to stop at the Sabre Boat Manufacture and see the plant in operation. After their one hour tour, they both walked away without a purchase—Hurrah! We got back on the road to beat-feet for Mount Washington in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. On SR302 the scenery was SPECTACULAR with colors. The Fall hues were vibrant even though it was misting most of the morning. We saw our FIRST MOOSE! It had just walked across the road and was standing chest deep in a pond of water. I got some good pictures of it before it faded into the woods.

We (Wayne, Bill and me) arrived at Mt. Washington in time to catch the 1:00 cog railroad train. There was an informative DVD playing that gave the history of this area. It took 45 minutes for the diesel engine to push the one railroad car up to the top of the 6,300' tall mountain. The cog railroad began in 1863 and took until 1869 to complete the 3 mile long track. It was primarily the money and idea of one man.

The 'brakeman' was very informative and told us all about his job and the construction of the engine and train. The views were stunning until we reached nearly the top when the fog rolled in and ended our vistas! At the top of the Mountain is a Weather Station, manned 24/7. Mt. Washington has some of the most severe weather in the USA. It is foggy 300 days a year and today was no exception. It was 47 degrees with 27 mile an hour winds with gusts to 40 mph. We enjoyed a hot drink at the top and a hotdog or chili. There was a small museum in the basement that showed some of the history of the weather station and many pictures and records collected over time. While waiting for train to return, the fog was so heavy, it felt like it was sleeting! Thanks goodness for coats, hats and scarves! Upon descending, we again saw the beautiful colors and several small brooks and villages in the distance from the train.

After rejoining with Lorene (who had elected to stay back in their camper) we headed for the Breton Woods Hotel, built in the early 1900s, and spotted 2 foxes sitting alongside the road begging for handouts! We had been warned about them in the main ticket office. We made a reservation for High Tea tomorrow. After arriving at the Twin Mountains KOA, we all enjoyed a hot bowl of Wayne's beans and greens soup along with salad, homemade bread, warm brie and a glass of blueberry wine!