

February 23, 2005

Hi [siblings and Mom],

Here's a picture from last summer's Harry sibling trip. It is a bit grainy because I cropped it out of a larger picture and blew it up.

Carol and I had an OK Florida trip. We stayed at a Hampton Inn in Clearwater about 6 miles from the beach. We visited Homosassa State Park, where we saw several manatees in the Homosassa River. They congregate in the rivers this time of year because the gulf is too cold. The park is really kind of a zoo, with fenced-in animals, but was enjoyable. At another nature park, we got a good look at a couple pileated woodpeckers. We spent most of a day at the Salvador Dali museum in St. Petersburg and another day at a zoo in Tampa. We saw lots of ospreys, even along highways where they've put nesting platforms on the light poles. Late in our stay, we found Fort Desoto State Park, an island with miles of beach, where we saw lots of shore birds, including an Oyster Catcher. They had canoes rentals and a ferry to another near by, more natural island, which I'd have liked to do if we'd had more time.

Steve