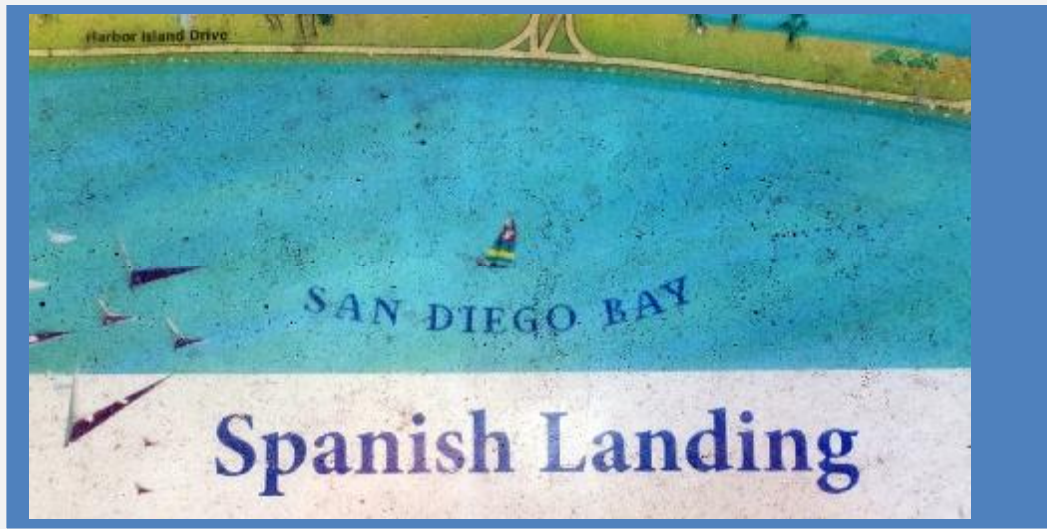




In Search of Eldorado

Link to the Eldorado Song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VczD1olutQ8>



Hello to Family & Friends

Ready for another day, I ate breakfast and prepped the bike. The battery is fully charged this time.

The bike path to the Embarcadero is only about 50 yards from the RV, so I can avoid any city streets.

My itinerary has eight sights to see along with the visitor center.

First is the plaque above and below.

You have arrived at one of the most historically significant areas in California — Spanish Landing Park. In 1769 the *San Antonio* dropped its anchor in the Bay marking the first ship to arrive in an expedition led by Captain Gaspar de Portola. The expedition consisted of soldiers, settlers and missionaries. There were two land expeditions, one led by Portola which included Father Junipero Serra, and two by sea, aboard the *San Antonio* and *San Carlos*. By early July all four expeditions had arrived. From there, Father Serra founded 21 missions along California's El Camino Real. Thus began the settling of California.

Day 33
Tuesday,
February 4th

San Diego
Midway Museum
To
Little Italy
Weather
40's to 60's and Sunny

In Search of Eldorado

By Edgar Allan Poe

Gaily bedight,
A gallant knight,
In sunshine and in shadow,
Had journeyed long,
Singing a song,
In search of Eldorado.

But he grew old—
This knight so bold—
And o'er his heart a shadow—
Fell as he found
No spot of ground
That looked like Eldorado.

And, as his strength
Failed him at length,
He met a pilgrim shadow—
'Shadow,' said he,
'Where can it be—
This land of Eldorado?'

'Over the Mountains
Of the Moon,
Down the Valley of the Shadow,
Ride, boldly ride,'
The shade replied,—
'If you seek for Eldorado!'



2/3 scale is still pretty large.





These outrigger canoes approached the bridge just as I was passing over.



Lots and lots of boats



Not quite sure what's going on here, but it looks as though the Coast Guard is conducting some sort of training exercise.

"Embracing Peace"

by

Seward Johnson

©2004, 2005 The Seward Johnson Atelier, Inc.

This sculpture depicts one of the most famous and iconic moments in the history of the United States, reflecting the joy of the American people upon learning World War II had ended. It is inspired by the spontaneous celebration in New York City's Times Square in August 1945.

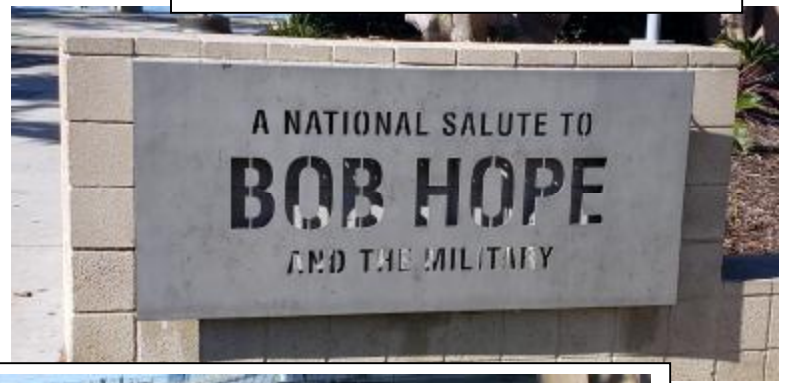
The USS Midway Museum

These community leaders whose
Kiss' for San Francisco
ont:

The sculpture, titled 'Unconditional Surrender' is 25 feet tall and weighs 6000 pounds



This Bob Hope one was pretty cool. There was a recording playing of him telling jokes to the troops





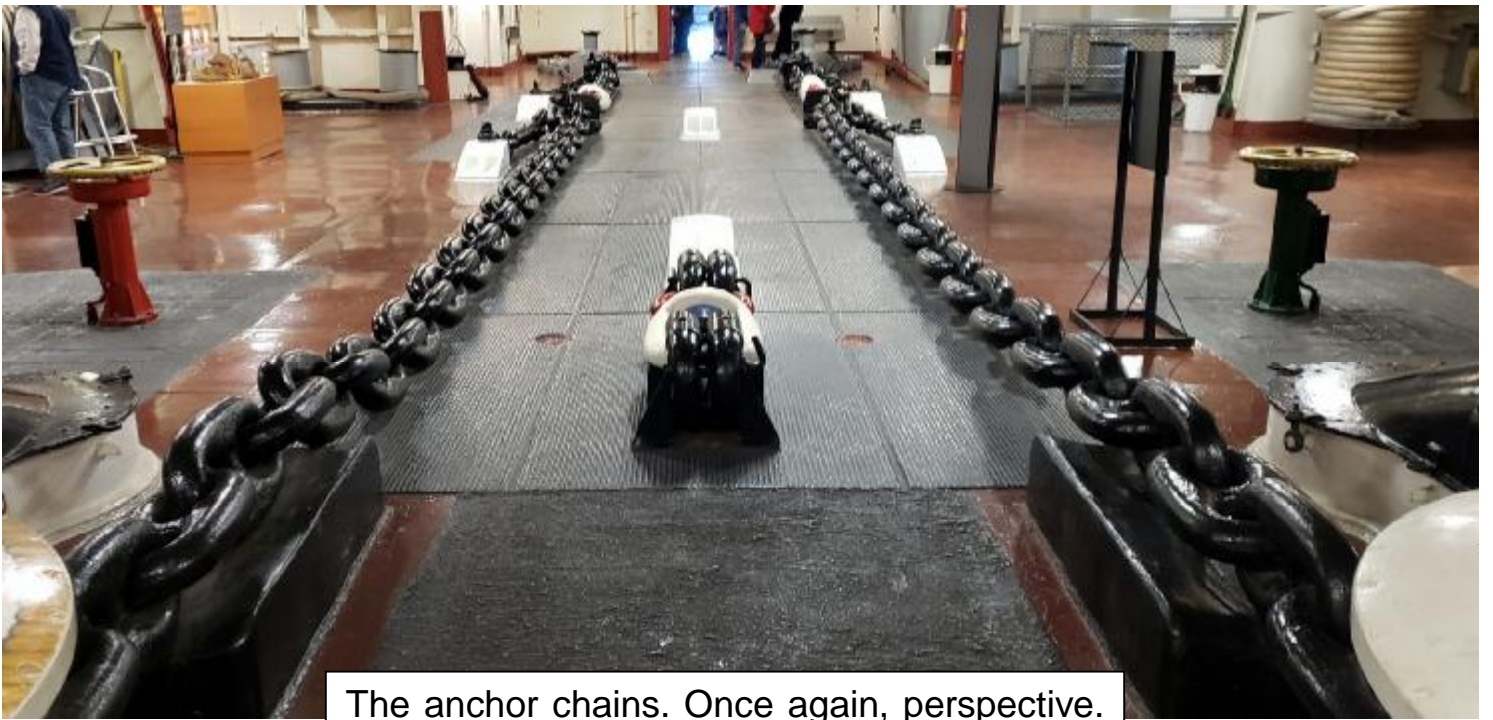
On a more somber note



The main stop of the day. Not the first aircraft carrier I've been on, but probably the most storied. Below I am standing on the dock looking up to the top.



From bow to stern

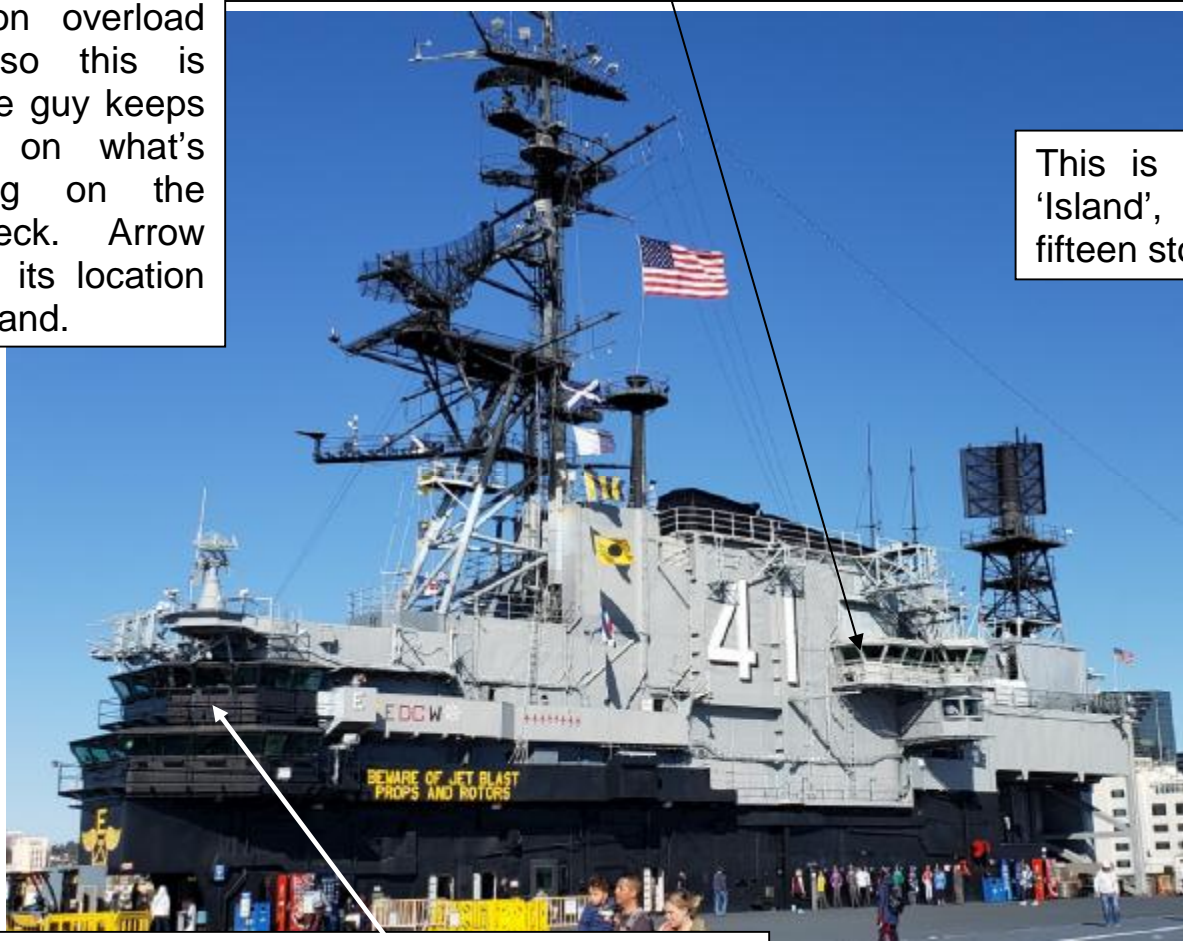


The anchor chains. Once again, perspective. Each LINK weighs 156 pounds. Below – The passage the chain goes through - you can see the anchor at the end of the chain.





Alright, I'm not going to bore you with all the titles to people and places (I don't remember, information overload today), so this is where the guy keeps an eye on what's happening on the flight deck. Arrow points to its location on the Island.



This is called the 'Island', it's about fifteen stories high.



The photo left is standing at the helm. You can just see the tip of a handle from the wheel. It seems to me that for the sailor steering the ship, he has a very obstructed view. The arrow points to the Bridge location on the Island.

THE CHIP LOG

Why we measure a ship's speed in knots

Why we measure a ship's speed in knots

I always wondered about this. You listen to the weather forecast and you hear the wind in 'knots'. Why can't they just say it in MPH?

Early mariners dropped a floating object alongside the ship and noted the time it took to pass between fixed points. By the 15th century, a more refined method called a "chip log" was devised.

The "chip," a weighted wedge-shaped wooden plank, was used. A line with three strands was affixed to the three tips of the chip. Along the rest of the line, knots were tied 50 feet apart. The line was wound around a freely moving spindle.

Using the chip log required two people. One would drop the chip astern and start a 30 second hourglass, while a second person allowed the chip line to deploy from the spindle. As the chip pulled against the water behind the ship, the line ran freely until the time was up. The number of knots run out in the allotted time marked the vessels speed in knots.



Bulkhead after bulkhead, right down the middle of the ship.



Your cell phone has hundreds of times more computing power than this room of computers.

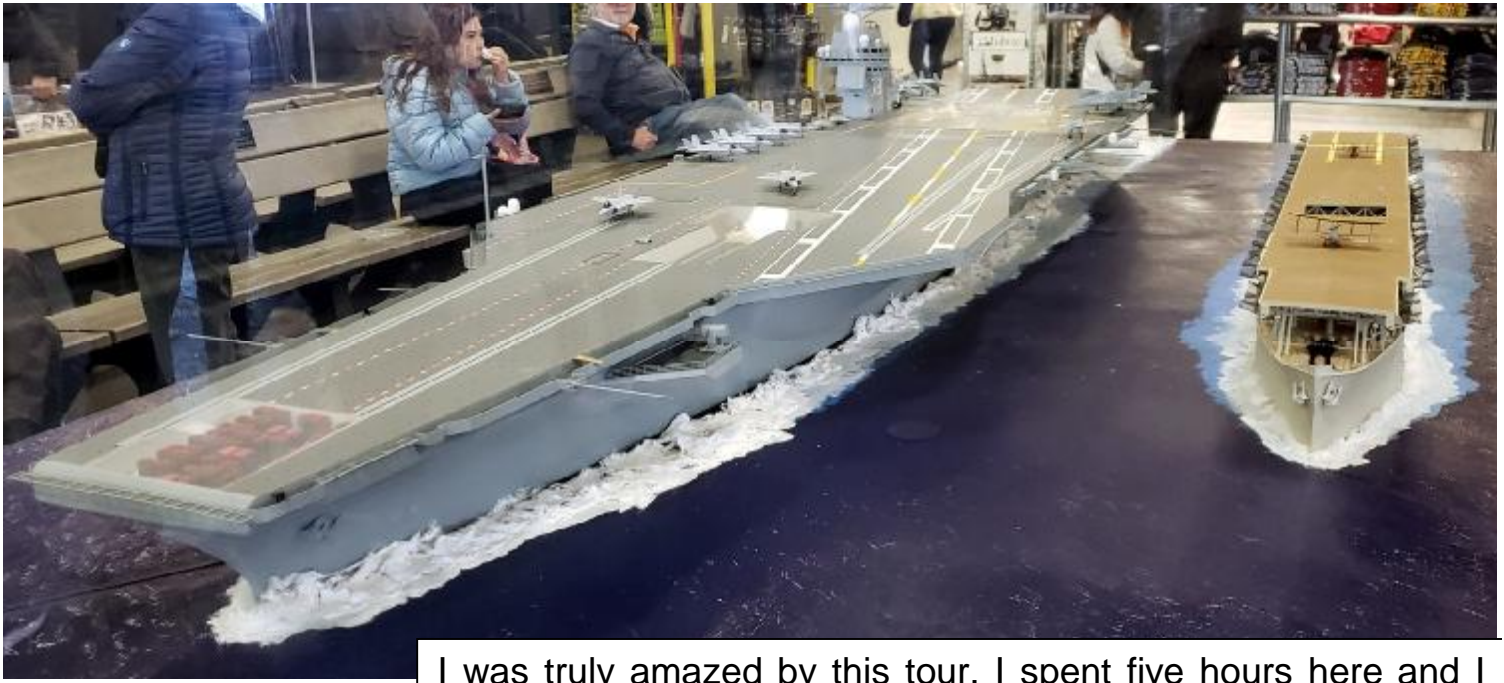
There must be five or six times more flight deck than the first one.

Carriers: Past and Present



USS Langley
US Navy's first aircraft carrier. Home ported in San Diego 1924 - 1938.

USS Gerald R. Ford
US Navy's next generation aircraft carrier.



I was truly amazed by this tour. I spent five hours here and I never listened (free audio tour – I recommend) to audio for any of the 20-30 aircraft that are on the flight deck or hanger deck (Air & Space Museum yesterday) so this is definitely an all day excursion if I wanted it to be. Tours through every aspect of the ship; over 30 docents (yellow hats) some who actually sailed on this vessel; as mentioned earlier, information overload. WOW! Another neat thing was that every now and then I would get behind an older couple, where I could hear the man talking about his time on the ship. That was awesome. I used the Go Card so I can go back again if I want to.



A "Tail" of Two Cities - The Brother Dogs Project



The San Diego-Edinburgh Sister City Society, Inc.
has brought these two dogs together
to celebrate the friendship
between our cities and to memorialize

the remarkable stories of Edinburgh, Scotland's Official Dog,
"GREYFRIARS BOBBY" and San Diego's Official Town Dog, "BUM"



BUM

SAN DIEGO'S OFFICIAL TOWN DOG
DIED NOVEMBER 10, 1898 - AGED 12 YEARS

LOVED BY EVERYONE - OWNED BY NO ONE. HIS NAME SUITED HIM
BECAUSE HE ARRIVED AS A STOWAWAY, BEFRIENDED EVERYONE AND
"BUMMED" QUALITY FOOD FROM THE LOCAL EATERIES. AS A YOUNG
DOG HE SURVIVED A SCUFFLE WITH ANOTHER DOG ON THE SANTA FE
TRAIN TRACKS. THOUGH HE LOST A FORELEG AND PART OF HIS TAIL,
HIS SPIRIT WAS UNBROKEN. HE GUARDED THE CHILDREN, LED THE
PARADES AND FIRE TRUCKS, AND HAD MANY ADVENTURES.
SO ADMIRER WAS BUM THAT THE CITY COUNCIL AWARDED HIM
A LIFETIME DOG LICENSE. WHEN HE DIED, CHILDREN COLLECTED
PENNIES FOR A PROPER FUNERAL.

THIS PLAQUE PLACED BY B CLAMPUS VITUS,
JOHN P. SQUIBOB CHAPTER 1853,
SAN DIEGO AND IMPERIAL COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA
OCTOBER, 2007

This is a very good Disney movie if you're interested in 'the rest of the story'.

GREYFRIARS BOBBY

Died 11th January 1872

Aged 16 years

Greyfriars Bobby is one of Edinburgh's best loved characters who served his master in life and watched over his grave in Greyfriars Kirkyard after he died.

of San Diego by the citizens of Scotland to celebrate the 100th anniversary of their Sister City link. A delegation of citizens of San Diego visited Edinburgh in August 1997.

August 1997



Some kids, big and small, on the carousel at the Seaport Village





I biked back to the RV, a cold and windy trip. It must be me – last year in Arizona, natives were complaining it was the coldest winter in memory. This year in San Diego, natives are complaining that this cold stretch is unusual for this time of year. I put on about 16 miles today, ate dinner, then drove over towards Little Italy and spent some time walking the streets.

Funny story – I wanted something for dessert and stopped at a shop that advertised ice cream, but all they really had was gelato. I was the only one in the store along with about five employees. Shouts of ‘can we help you’ rang out. I told them I was an ice cream guy and said I might be back. A block later there was another ice cream shop with the line almost out the door. You can probably guess which one I chose. Freckled mint with hot fudge and sprinkles (jimmies or those of you back in Wisconsin).





There are supposed to be about half a dozen of these little piazzas, but I could only find these two.



On the way back to the RV, on the bike, not from Little Italy, I stopped and made reservations for a boat tour of the south harbor for tomorrow and whale watching on Friday. I'm looking forward to it.

I parked around Liberty Station for the night again, this time near Vons Grocery store. Don't ever shop at Von's. If you want the special price, which is usually a pretty good deal, it's only good if you buy five of that item. I can't use five half gallons of milk (no 1% by the way at all), or five 12 packs of soda, or five of this or five of that. Their cheese selection consisted of one shelf of shredded and one of block. Ridiculous!

I finally saw the sign that tells me which ordinance I'm in violation of by parking here. Knock on wood, so far so good!

I've been adding up my savings with the Go Card. I spent \$242 for 35 attractions. By Friday when it expires I should be able to visit 12 of them for a savings of around \$125. Not bad. I will see if I can squeeze in any more Friday afternoon. Some are just crazy. The San Diego card includes the Hollywood Museum in Hollywood - 126 miles away, the San Diego Zoo Safari - one hour away, Knotts Berry Farm - 89 miles.

This newsletter is a full day late, tomorrow will be very busy, so the next one will be even later and so on. I should catch up next week while I am just basking in the sun on the sandy beaches of southern California (I will need a vacation from my vacation after this week).

Until next time.....