

Jan 30st, 2010

Ladies & Gentlemen,

What a great week!!!

Donna and I have unpacked and began the laundry cleaning you would expect from a week of overseas travel. Our flights were uneventful with the exception of the loss of Donna's luggage (Delta Airlines just delivered the missing bag to our home). If you are lacking excitement in your life, ride in a Tel Aviv taxi.....

Our flights from New Orleans to Atlanta to Tel Aviv went without a problem. The Trans-Atlantic "air bounces" jostled me to sleep, Donna "kept watch".

We arrived Saturday evening and took it easy at the Dan Panorama Hotel. The hotel was very nice and our room faced the Mediterranean Sea. Great breezes kept our 10th floor room cool and comfortable. Surprisingly the 8-hour difference did not cause much of a problem.

On Sunday our friend (and excellent tour guide) Shimon (AWS folks will remember him from the IIW Singapore Convention) picked us up from the hotel at 0830 and we visited Israel. We went to Jerusalem, Dead Sea and Masada finishing at the home of Shimon and Ilana. Ilana and Donna pride themselves in their culinary and make you feel at home skills. Ilana fed us a great supper of home made soups and breads.

When we returned to the hotel we rested awhile and watched the AFC Championship Game between the Indianapolis Colts and the New York Jets on ESPN. With all of the confidence in the world we expected the NCF Championship Game between the New Orleans Saints and the Minnesota Vikings to follow. We were so confident the game would air that I sent a text message to about 12 people asking for a 1730 (US Central) wake up call (0130 in Tel Aviv). Many thanks to the 8 friends that sent the call. The game was not on the television but we "watched" the play by play on the Internet (rebooted the computer about 8 times). At least the Saints won.....WHO DAT????????????!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

We recovered from overdoing ourselves on Monday, layed low and got some rest. We visited the Mediterranean shoreline and took a bunch of photos of the 10'+ waves. We met with several members of the Israeli Section of the American Welding Society at a reception held at the Dan Panorama Hotel. Supper with Jeff and Linda, Shimon and Ilana at the Intercontinental was excellent.

On Tuesday I was honored to assist with the opening of the 2010 Welding & Joining Conference. What a crowd, the Conference was attended by about 330 people! My presentation of Welding in the Gulf of Mexico and AWS Energizes the World was ***an act of pure perfection*** (my thoughts). At any rate the attendees didn't boo me from the

podium. In the evening a group of us met at the hotel lounge and appreciated the beautiful piano rendition by Mimi Liu.

On Wednesday Shimon, Adin, Eliezer, Gabriel, Steve, Charles, Chaim, and I attended a conference held at the Standards Institution of Israel. Adin provided the transportation and historic perspective of Israel. General Director Doron Tamir and Director of Standardization Helen Atarot were very gracious to meet with us before the conference and host an excellent lunch afterwards. There appear to be excellent opportunities to support the oil and gas industry in Israel.

I worked Wednesday night until 2330 preparing a work plan for a Gulf of Mexico platform installation. Then "crashed".

Thursday was a day of rest. After an great breakfast a group of us were treated to a voyage on a sailboat skippered by Captain Gabe and Lavon Ali. The weather was fantastic and the water was as blue as blue can get. The lunch that followed at the marina was absolutely fantastic. Our 2350 Thursday flight from Tel Aviv to Atlanta to New Orleans (arrived at 0930 Friday) was flawless with the exception of Donna's lost suitcase.

We appreciate the opportunity to attend the Israeli 2010 Welding and Joining Conference and the subsequent Conference at the Standards Institute of Israel. Our hosts were very obliging and we felt at home during the visit. Israel is a beautiful country and the people are very friendly.

Thanks to all for your time and effort to support our activities while we visited Israel. Please let Donna and I know if you plan to visit the US, our home is your home. We would love to show you the attractions of Southern Louisiana.

With Warmest Regards,

John & Donna Bruskotter

**American Welding Society – President**

**63.000 members in USA and overseas**