

## Community Comment 3/17/2014

By Jon Sapper

### Grandson's Birthday

Last Fall I commented on the wonderful time I had visiting my 2yr. old grandson in Northern Idaho. I talked about trying to save a few dollars by flying out of Medford instead of Mckinleyville. But after a closed highway, a missed flight that was my fault; a long drive to Eugene, an extra cost for the ticket, an airport shutdown in Portland because the computers didn't work delaying the flight and my car that blew a head gasket in the extreme heat, flying out of here would have been a bargain.

Well, last weekend I visited my grandson again for his third birthday. Being frugal, I wasn't going to go through that routine again by driving to Medford, so I drove to Portland after work to catch a short flight to Spokane. Flying out of here, I would have gone to San Francisco first, then to Portland. Mentally, I have a problem going south to go north.

Anyway, I arrived in Portland early enough to switch my ticket to an earlier flight. They do charge for that you know. But I was more than willing to pay this extra fee to get to see my grandson two hours sooner. I made this earlier flight by only 10 minutes. I did tell the attendant at the counter of the "fun" last summer with all the problems. We both laughed.

Five minutes later and waiting to board, I noticed a message flashed up on the screen that the plane had been delayed. The next message a few minutes later said the flight had been cancelled. I ran up to the counter to the same agent. She saw me coming with a somewhat distressed look on her face. I said, "Go ahead and get me back on my original flight" which was in two hours. She pulled up the computer, looked at me with some hesitation and said, "It's full." I chuckled saying, "I'm tired, please don't tease me like that". She said, "I'm not." I said, "You've got to be kidding." She said, "I wish I was." I said, "This is my grandson's birthday and I've got to get there". She said, "I can get you to Seattle and then you can fly to Spokane later tonight. You'll only be a few hours late."

With no other option, I went to Seattle, thankful that I didn't have to go to Denver, Des Moines, or Canada first. Nothing would have surprised me at this point.

The birthday was wonderful. It's hard to believe a three year old can wear out four adults, one after another and still have energy. I was exhausted. Yes, he's the smartest three year old in the country, knows his letters and knows his numbers, can leap tall buildings with a single jump, etc. etc.

I just have one request.....Can we get a direct flight to Spokane from Eureka so I don't have to go through all this tomfoolery? If that won't happen, maybe I should just learn to leave original reservations as they are.

This has been Jon Sapper for Community Comment.