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1 General things

1.1 Critters

Here anything that is not an insect (a 'bug') is called a critter. Alligators are critters. FL full of alligators. Idiots have also released Burmese pythons into the wild. These things can grow really large. Do not swim in lakes. Careful when retrieving golf balls from water hazards.

1.2 Embarq

The local telco (telephone company) in FL. Supplies the phone and Internet connection. A monopoly provider. See their contact details in front of telephone directories.

1.3 Golf

The main reason I come here. 50+ golf courses in the Naples area.

1.4 Weather

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Temp Min	11°C 52°F	12°C 54°F	15°C 59°F	17°C 63°F	20°C 68°F	23°C 73°F	24°C 75°F	24°C 75°F	23°C 73°F	20°C 68°F	16°C 61°F	13°C 55°F
Temp Max	23°C 73°F	24°C 75°F	27°C 81°F	29°C 84°F	31°C 88°F	32°C 90°F	33°C 91°F	33°C 91°F	32°C 90°F	30°C 86°F	27°C 81°F	24°C 75°F
Rain fall	1.9"	2.0"	2.3"	1.7"	4.5"	7.8"	8.0"	8.5"	9.2"	4.0"	1.2"	1.4"
Sea Temp	18°C 66°F	18°C 66°F	21°C 71°F	25°C 77°F	28°C 82°F	30°C 86°F	30°C 87°F	30°C 87°F	30°C 86°F	27°C 81°F	23°C 73°F	20°C 68°F

Hurricane season is officially June through November, with main risk August through October.

2324 Hidden Lake Drive #4, Naples, FL 34112, USA
Version 4 - 8th March 2009

1.5 People

A lot of people retire to FL from colder parts of USA. So average age and income tends to be quite high. Number of people is also highly seasonal, with many condos only occupied part of the year. December through March is peak season with people taking a break from colder weather up north. Not just Americans/Canadians – many Europeans too.

2 Falling Waters

FW for short. The name of the whole condominium complex with about 750 condos.

2.1 Access

FW is a 'gated community' i.e. there is one entry point to the whole complex off Davis Boulevard with a gatehouse controlling access in/out. There are tons of these communities around. In Naples, many have golf courses included. FW does not have a golf course because it quite an old community (about 15-20 years old) by Naples standards.

The FW gatehouse is manned from 7AM to 10PM in two slots. The direct number of the gatehouse is 239-7742313. The main man who knows what he is talking about is Gene. He tends to be on the late shift (3PM-10PM). Other times you might collect an old gent on the gatehouse who refers everything to Gene. Give the gatehouse as much notice of events as possible. For example if you are in the condo and expect someone in, call the gatehouse at least 10 minutes in advance to let them know what to expect.

Car exit from FW at any time is no issue – the gates open automatically. Entry between hours of 10PM and 7AM (when gatehouse is unmanned) is more difficult. It is automatic only for residents with a certain electronic label on their car that opens entry barrier automatically. Entry/exit on foot at any time is no problem.

2.2 Swimming Pool

FW has a big pool by Naples standards. You see it directly across the lake from my front lanai. About a 50-yard walk away. Access to the clubhouse (itself not a big deal) and swimming pool is now controlled by swipe cards. There are two of them in the **Useful box** – white ones marked **ioProx**. There are some rules regarding the pool – no glass, booze etc. Signs are clear enough. There is a booth inside the pool area sometimes inhabited by superintendent-type person. Wander up and chat to him. There are plenty of sun-loungers and chairs/tables around the pool.

2.3 Tennis

There are two tennis courts next to the clubhouse. Proper tennis dress on the courts is not a big deal, but you should buy/bring proper tennis shoes. There are 4 tennis rackets plus some tennis balls in my condo. Go right ahead and use them. The notice board next to courts has booking sheet. In practical terms, most bookings tend to be in the morning. Afternoons/evenings more likely you can just arrive and use one of the courts if it is free. Note you must clean the court after use. Sweep with big brush then 'point' the white lines (clear the surface granules off them) using small rotating brush you push in front of you. The courts are closed for maintenance every lunchtime.

2.4 Condo Association

In the **Useful box** there is a pink covered booklet 'Resident Directory'. There is listing in there for Association Officers. My association is 'Falling Waters II'. The president of the association is (currently at least) Tim Boyle. He has key to the condo for emergencies. If any major issue arises, you can try calling him but obviously not at inconvenient times. Rather contact me first for issues in my condo itself. He is really only interested in communal stuff e.g. if you have hassle for use of tennis courts or get complaints about noise.

3 My Condo

3.1 Introduction

The condo was completely refurbished by previous owners – shortly before they got in financial trouble and the bank foreclosed (repossessed). So I got it in very good condition in May 2008 and paid about 60% of what it had been worth at peak valuation a few years ago.

The two bedrooms are carpeted. Apart from that it is nicely tiled throughout, so very easy to maintain. The main bedroom has king size bed (76” wide by 80” long). The 2nd bedroom has two twin beds (39” wide by 75” long). All beds have one spare set of linen, so you should be able to leave clean linen on the beds before you leave. See **When you go**.

The 2nd bedroom has built-in cupboard. The main bedroom has walk-in wardrobe. There is mostly unused room in front of front lanai, where you can put down extra mattresses if needs be. I have several blow-up mattresses with a small foot pump.

All furnishings and appliances were bought around September 2008. Some of the stuff is 2nd-hand, most is new. The furnishings are comfortable but not expensive.

3.2 Air-Conditioning

The manual control is on the wall on right-hand side just before door to 2nd bedroom at head height. Instructions are in one of the drawers in the kitchen. There are two slider controls on the bottom of the unit. The right-hand one has Heat/Off/Cool. In FL you are unlikely to want Heat. If you slide it to Cool, you can hear the aircon start up. Then press small menu button on front of unit. The LCD panel shows options, including temperature up/down arrows. If you slide back from Cool to Off, it takes a few minutes for the aircon to stop working.

The actual aircon unit is in cupboard at back of utility room containing washer/dryer. It is the top unit. The bottom one is the water boiler.

If you have aircon on, please keep exit doors closed. I don't want to cool/heat FL outside the condo. If you are away from condo for more than a few hours, please set the aircon Off.

3.3 Bathroom 2

The 2nd bathroom (the one with the spa bath in it). I have'nt used the spa waterjets myself, but you are welcome to try. Original use instructions in one of the kitchen drawers.

The plug in the bath is a bit funny. Push down to lock, then push down again to release. It does'nt work very well. Either way, do not pull the plug up – you just dismantle the plug.

The shower curtain rod is not fixed i.e. properly wall-mounted. Just held in place by spring mechanism in the rod itself. If you manage to bring it down, rotate the rod bits to extend then compress along the length and wedge back in place. If you pull on the rod-ends, they just come off.

3.4 Breakages

Please don't worry about replacing minor breakages (glasses, crockery etc.) during your stay. None of it is expensive stuff.

3.5 Electricity

US power supply is 110 volt/60 hertz. Many other countries are 220 volt/50 hertz. Most decent equipment like laptops cope with both – but check with your supplier. There are 4 simple adapters in the **Useful box**, so you should be able to convert your non-US plug size to fit (quite small) US plugs. Note these are simple adapters not transformers i.e. they will not scale voltage up/down.

3.6 Glass sliding doors

The main bedroom and lounge both have double sliding glass doors onto the front lanai. Do **not** accidentally walk through the glass doors !.

3.7 Internet

The condo has wireless broadband supplied by **Embarq** (also see **Telephone**). The modem/router is in the utility room wall-mounted next to the washing machine. The wireless network ID is **2324#4** and the access code is the middle number of 3 printed on the modem. The MAC address of the router is 00:21:7c:16:fd:41. The protocol is 'Wireless G' although the older 'Wireless B' should work. If you lose the wireless connection (e.g. after rebooting the PC), click the green-and-black icon in the icon tray bottom right. That brings up Linksys router management screen. Click the Site Survey tab. Under SSID you should see several networks including 2324#4. Click that then the green Connect button. You see new window 'WEP key needed for connection'. In bottom WEP Key 1 enter the access code then Connect again. Back on 1st screen, wait until you see 'You have successfully connected to the access point and the Internet!'. This should take no more than 2 minutes.

If you bring a PC and it has wireless access built-in, you should know how to scan for networks. If you do not have built-in wireless access, there are two USB Wireless G sticks available. One will probably be in the front USB slot on the PC. Leave it alone unless you absolutely have to do something with it. There are other USB ports on the back of the PC you can use if you have to.

To get wireless connection from your own PC, follow instructions to load CD first then insert stick. Do not walk out the door with my USB sticks - return them to where you found them. See **When you go**.

The internal IP address of the modem is 192.168.1.254 with subnet mask 255.255.255.0. This means your own PC must have IP address in the range 192.168.1.xxx (xxx is any number in range 1 through 253). If you have DHCP (rather than a fixed IP address) on your PC, it should automatically assign a suitable IP number. If after establishing connection you access <http://192.168.1.254> in a Web browser you see all the settings on the modem. Do **NOT** change any of these settings. If you are having problems accessing the wireless network or then accessing the Internet, the problem is on your PC – not on the modem.

As a last resort you can try a wired connection. There is a short yellow network cable in the **Useful box**. Connect one end into back of modem and other end into your PC. Move PC to modem if needs be. Do not move modem out of its wall mounting.

See **Personal computer**. My own PC accesses the wireless network just fine.

3.8 Kitchen sink

Has two bowls. The left-hand one has built-in garbage mangler. Operated by wall switch nearest sink on right-hand side as you look at sink. Make sure nothing solid (like a knife or fork) slips down into the mangler. If – like me - you don't need this thing particularly, just keep a plug in the left-hand bowl all the time.

To operate the tap on the kitchen sink, pull the handle gently right for on, left for off, away from you for hot water, towards you for cold water.

3.9 Lanai

A lanai is a verandah or porch. There are two. The front (overlooking the lake) and back (overlooking the road/garages).

Both lanais have fine wire mesh to keep bugs out. The mesh is not held very strongly in place. Avoid pushing directly against the mesh itself e.g. on the back gate at the top of the steps, push on the doorframe, not the mesh in the frame. The odd friendly local inhabitant like lizard or frog might get trapped inside the mesh. Please open door and release them outside the mesh.

3.10 Parking

There is a car porch with a bronze letter '4' on it. Also a parking bay just behind that has '4' painted on the ground. Both belong to the condo.

3.11 Walking Around

The condo below mine has asked that we not make too much noise. In particular the insulation between my floor and their ceiling is not very sound-proof. So they hear people walking around. Nothing much can be done about this, but just be aware of it. Perhaps wear socks or the rubber flip-flops you find in my condo. There should be some small carpets on top of the tiles to limit noise.

3.12 Personal Computer

There is an old HP PC in the condo. This runs Windows XP. I use this PC myself mostly for business when I visit here. I do not download risky software like games onto the machine and expect any visitor to behave in the same way. So if you use the PC, I expect you to use it only for Internet access (and then only for remote Web browsing like Webmail). In particular I ask that you keep kids well away from my PC – they are very careless users and download any old garbage without thinking.

If you screw up my PC then I have to re-install the entire XP operating system and other software from scratch. This is an awful nuisance. In short, treat with a great deal of care please.

The XP license is 76487-640-8365391-23381. The Service Pack license is V2C47-MK750-3R89F-D2KXN-VPK35.

There is a grey office chair for use at PC table. This tilts back quite a lot – but is still stable. Try tilting it back away from PC table first to see what I mean.

See **Internet**. My own PC accesses the wireless network in the condo just fine (using one of the USB Wireless G sticks you can find in the **Useful box**).

3.13 Smoking

See **Lanai**. Absolutely no smoking whatsoever within the condo itself. If you must smoke, you can only do so on one of the lanais. That means lighting up on the lanai, smoking there and stubbing the cigarette out in ashtray on the lanai. No lighted cigarettes within the condo ever. If you have trashcan smelling of cigarettes because you have emptied ashtrays in there, do not leave the trash around for days. Take the trash out frequently. See **Trash**.

Anywhere else within the FW complex, if you stub a cigarette out on the ground, pick up the butt and take it home to dispose of in the trash. Do not flick cigarette ends off into the bushes.

I can not emphasise strongly enough how important it is that you respect these restrictions. I smoke myself and follow them religiously. If the condo starts to stink of cigarettes, I have to get a deep clean done (clean everything including furniture, carpets, blinds etc – in short anything that might have absorbed the smell of cigarettes), so the condo is then lettable to someone who does not smoke at all.

3.14 Telephone

The landline number is 239-7937681. If dialled from outside North America 001-239-7937681. From within North America if not in Naples it is 1-239-7937681. See **Embarq**.

If the number you are dialing also starts with 239, this is a free local call – you can drop the 239 when you dial the number.

To dial long-distance or international, please use the facilities you see on <http://www.101-6868.com>. To call long distance within North America (country code 1), dial 1016868 followed by 1 + area code + destination number. For example, 932-123456, dial 1016868-1-932-123456. To call other countries, dial 1016868-011 followed by country code + area code + destination number. For example to call 21-123456 in South Africa (country code 27), dial 1016868-011-27-21-123456. For example to call 1624-123456 in UK (country code 44), dial 1016868-011-44-1624-123456. Note in all cases you drop the leading zero in front of all numbers starting with country code.

I pay the phone bill either way. The calls to 1016868 appear on the bill from **Embarq**. You must be reasonable about running up a large phone bill. Look up the charge rates on the 1016868 Web site.

3.15 Television

The condo has cable TV. 80 channels of not very much. The TV is quite large and not attached to the wall (something I plan to do in future). Please avoid knocking it off it's table.

3.16 Trash

If you go outside condo and look to your left, there is area about 20 yards away surrounded by high pink picket fence. This contains the trash disposal bins with a limited degree of recycling options in separate small bins. Trash collection is fairly frequent – at least twice a week.

3.17 Useful Box

In kitchen. Contains odd things you need during your stay. Please replace anything you take out - see **When you go**.

3.18 Washing Machine & Dryer

Instructions for both in one of the drawers in the kitchen. But instructions on the machines pretty obvious. Avoid raising the lid on the washer while it is in operation, otherwise you can blow a fuse in the machine as I did . If you want to peer inside, stop the cycle first (push knob on right of panel), then lift lid when rotations has stopped, then close lid and pull knob back out to restart cycle. You will know if you have blown the fuse because the agitator (white cone) no longer works.

All appliances have 4-year extended cover from the supplier Home Depot (2251 Pine Ridge Rd Naples, FL 34109, tel 239-597-1515). In event of a major disaster with any appliance give them a ring first. They might put you onto the supplier GE. Either way, there is receipt in one of the kitchen drawers for the original purchase, so you should probably not have to pay for any normal service call-out. If in doubt, check with Home Depot before engineer arrives.

4 When you arrive

<Checklist of things to do>

5 When you go

- 1) Turn off the airconditioning.
- 2) Return everything you took out of the **Useful box** back into the box.
- 3) Power down the PC (Start -> Shutdown) then switch off electricity to PC at the wall socket.
- 4) Empty the contents of the fridge half of the refrigerator. You can leave the contents of the freezer section, but remove any opened food. Please do not turn off electricity to the refrigerator unless asked to do so.
- 5) Do not leave used bedding on the beds. At very least remove all sheets, pillowcases and bed covers and put them in the basket in the laundry room so next occupant knows they need to be washed when they arrive.
- 6) Do final dishwasher wash before you go. No dirty dishes left inside the condo please. Start the wash so it finishes before you go. Then remove contents and put back in cupboards or just on the kitchen counter. Leave door to dishwasher slightly open.
- 7) Take out the trash and put in disposal bins outside the condo.