

An aluminum weekend

Sing with me... *"Friday night I crashed your party, Saturday I said I'm sorry..."* Okay, so I was actually invited but then the song doesn't quite fit. Oh well. Anyway, this story starts before Friday, actually earlier this week. I was given advice to see what represented a 10th wedding anniversary. So I did a web search and found [this site](#) with information on anniversaries. We all know about silver and gold wedding anniversaries, but the years leading up to them are rather short of the glamour silver and gold bring, with things like paper, cotton, leather, and wood. 10th anniversary is tin or aluminum, so I got the idea to purchase them some snacks in tins. Well, apparently stores only sell snacks in tins around Christmastime- they were nowhere to be found. I finally found something kind of lame at Meijer, but it was in a tin. I would be giving them another gift along with it so I figured as long as the idea got across the tin would be fine. Next day, I had a job in 8th grade and I noticed the teacher had a tin in his room- full of puzzles. Ding- of course. *Games and puzzles can come in tins, and my friends are wild for games!* So, back in Meijer after school I found some options in domino sets (double 6, 9, and 12), and *Are You Smarter than a 5th Grader* Disney edition. I leaned toward the dominos, but decided to check Walmart across the street first. Good thing, as their domino sets were half the price of Meijer's! But wait, they had several more items in tins including a classic game set, a couple of jigsaw puzzles, and a *Phase 10* card game. It took me awhile to decide what to get, but C & L know what the final selection was. So, I wrapped them up, found a half-day job for Friday AM, went to bed, couldn't sleep, canceled the job at about 4:30 after only short bursts of sleep, went back to bed until 9:30, then got up, finished getting ready, ate, and headed to Ohio, stopping only once for gas and a snack (what a sentence, whew!). Once I finally gave the gifts away later in the evening C guessed something about

me wrapping the gifts in tin foil and I had to kick myself for not thinking of it. Well, the paper was the color of tin anyway.

Backing up just a little, I arrived at 3:45 and checked into the motel. \$25 per night- even better than the amazing \$29 C told me on the phone! Not too many frills, but I wouldn't be there except to sleep so I didn't care. I finally arrived at the theatre around 5:40 and discovered several people were already there and I didn't really need to delay at the motel as long as I did. I saw C's mom for the first time in a long time, as well as the rest of the family and friends there. Once they started it was short but emotional. One of the two (I won't say which, though most of you readers already know!) broke down while reading which only added to the powerful sincerity of what s/he said. Then it was off to the reception across the street where I had my second meal of the day (I skipped lunch) and, well I'll just skip ahead since this part is already in my friends' blogs. We all had a good time. When we went to their house afterward, they graciously allowed the few of us to stay for a short time and we had a fun few rounds of a Tribond game before we all retired for the night.

The next day they gave me some options for a fun, family activity- drive an hour to the Toledo Zoo or even longer to an animal park. Umm... Since I drove four hours the day before and would drive four hours again the next day, the animal park was really a no-go. The zoo might have been an option, but I had seen the zoo just a year before around the same time of year so we finally decided to go to town. It wasn't bad. The important part was just hanging out together, so it really didn't matter much what we did. The kids enjoyed some playtime at Menards, and then we went to a couple other places, including a few runs of go-karting (their eldest was visibly upset when she was asked to sit out first since not all could go at once, but I think she got over it after going twice in a row. Everyone- including us adults as we had to

watch their youngest who couldn't ride- rode two out of the three runs) before having dinner at a pizza buffet. Since it was a Chuck-E-Cheese style (somewhat) place I wasn't expecting much from the pizza, but it was actually pretty good. Not Gino's East or Giordano's good, but for sure better than Dominos or Little Caesar's. They even took requests, so I jokingly asked for something with jalapeños, and they actually obliged- not an unusual request I guess. Well, when they have peanut butter and jelly pizza I guess nothing's unusual! The kids had their fun at the games there, and then we rented a blu-ray movie to watch through my computer on their HDTV. Unfortunately, due to draconian copy protection and software issues it took some time to get the movie going, but we were glad when we finally did.

Hmm. This post is getting a little long so I think I will chop it here with a:

