

Lovely time with the family in KC. My sister's kiddos liked the trailer.



Enjoyed a heaping helping of suburban life including watching my nephew pitch in his baseball game.



Then back on the road, Cya KC.



Another gratuitous food pic. Two Dudes BBQ in Warrenton, MO. Wow, three words, pork steak sandwich. Right off the I-70, definitely worth a visit if you're passing through.



That night I grabbed a site at Canal Campground outside Grand Forks, KY on Lake Barkley, just south of the Kentucky and Berkley dams. Huge area with parks and lakes galore. Very popular with the local families, as I would find out.



Had some interactions with the other campers, their kids primarily. As soon as I pulled up two boys were crawling all over the trailer.

“What’s in here? What’s that? Hey, I can stick my head out the skylight!” Realizing no parents were coming to retrieve their precious ones, I politely told the boys to run off so I can go for a paddle. Then the younger boy said...

Kid: Hey, we used to have an rv.

Me: Really?

Kid: Yeah, but a tornada hit it and knocked it over. Now we ain’t got no rv no more.”

Me: Sorry to hear that. Well, at least you’re still camping.

Nice kids. The dad came over later and offered some firewood.

So made it out for that paddle. The lakes are a little too large a scale for a kayak, but still nice to get out there for a bit. Weather was perfect.



Later, back at the campsite the 2nd wave of kids arrived as I was cooking dinner. The de facto leaders were BJ, the eldest, and Conner, his little brother. They came first, then would leave and return with others. They were quite polite and complimentary about the trailer, but also had no intent of going home. Turns out they were part of a large church group there. BJ invited me many times to come down and I told him I appreciated the invite. Then BJ decided to get serious...

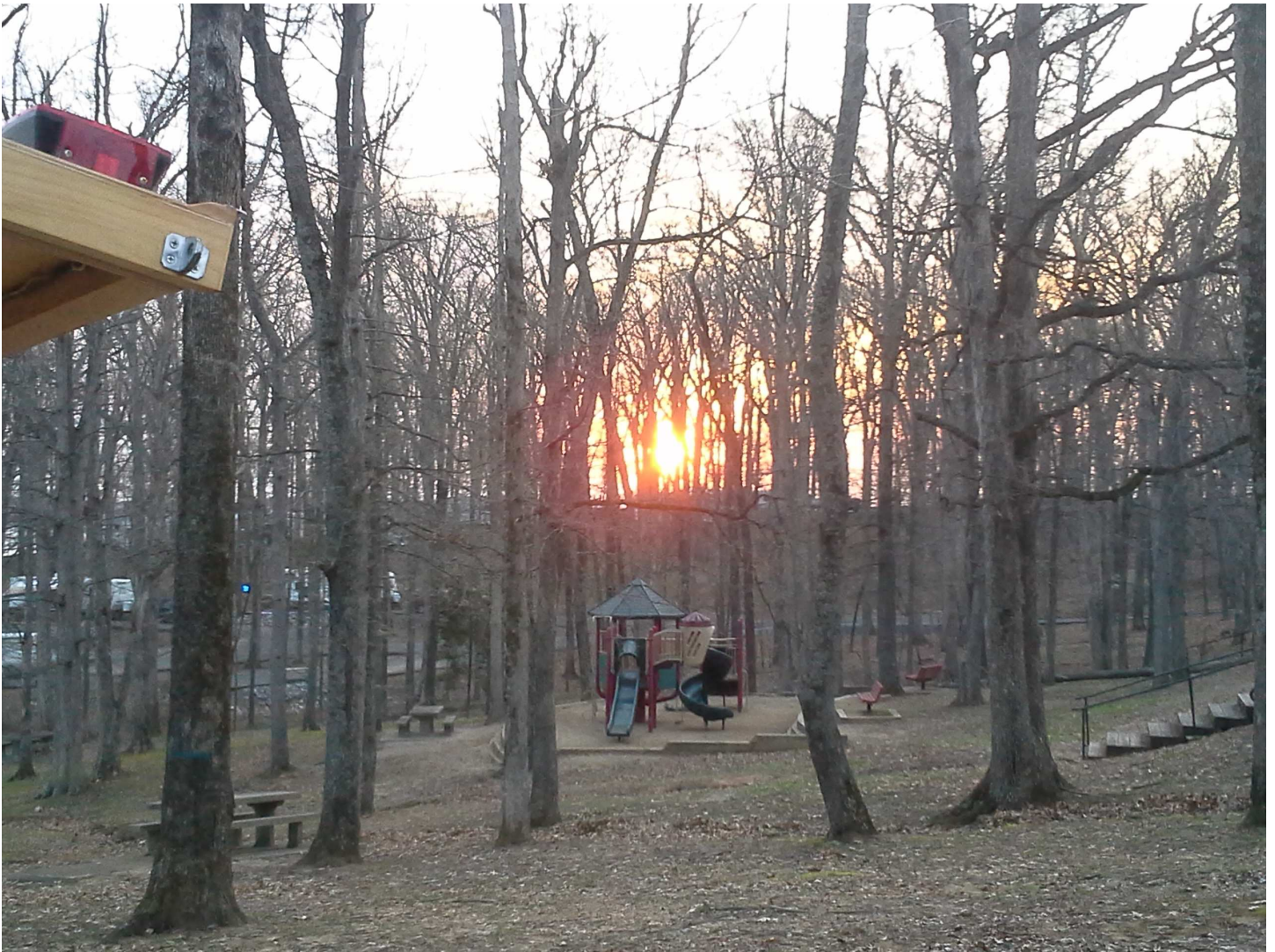
BJ: You read the Bible?

Me: Yes, I prefer the new King James version.

BJ: New King James?! (slight pause) Does it have Genesis and Revelation in it?

Me: Yes, all the books, none of that funny stuff.

I did go down to the church gathering, as invited, seemed rude not to. But the festivities were winding down, and don't think BJ informed his parents of the invitation he extended, so it made for a slightly awkward scene. You know, like, scratch the needle off the record, party's over, kinda entrance. They were polite, I told them thanks for the invite, to have a blessed night, and ran back to lock myself in the trailer until sunrise.



Then hit the road heading to my buddy Pete's place outside Asheville, NC. Nice view at his place.



Next up, the Smoky Mountains...