

Bill and Cathy McArthur in Spain: 17

We were supposed to go on a day trip to a scenic park south of the pueblo of Antequerra last weekend, but the trip was cancelled due to rain and fog, which tend to take the edge off of the scenic beauty of a place. The previous week was filled with dealing with the vagaries of Intuit. I had carefully prepared myself to be able to do my income taxes for our company, Computing Doc LLC, and ourselves. I bought the deluxe business version of TurboTax and the deluxe personal version of TurboTax and bought state (NJ) versions for both as well. With Cathy's help, we rounded up all of the appropriate documents and brought them with us. On a recent rainy day, I began to do our taxes, beginning with the company. In the past, TurboTax has been very helpful by importing all of the company data from QuickBooks, our accounting software. When I reached that step, TurboTax informed me that I had to immediately upgrade QuickBooks to a newer version in order to proceed. I went to a local computer store and discovered that they had never heard of the software; no surprise, and I wish I could say the same. I put in an emergency phone call to a very busy Phil and asked if he could get me an upgrade and send it to me. We are blessed with great sons-in-law. Phil quickly had a copy of the software (\$300+) heading my way. Our landlady told us that we had received a phone call from customs in Madrid. You have no idea how hard it was for her to tell us that so that we could understand. Our landlords had to supply my passport number for us to get delivery; when the software arrived, we had to pay \$60 customs duty. I hurriedly installed QuickBooks, called the U.S. to register it, and continued to do my taxes. When I imported the figures from QuickBooks, the numbers were incorrect. So much for integration of products. So I manually entered the P&L information and continued. TurboTax insisted that I update the software. This was impossible since Bill Gates had earlier decided to eliminate the ability of my version of Windows XP to connect to the Internet. So when I printed my tax forms, they had big banners on the pages saying that the information is invalid. So I finished my taxes and printed the forms with the banners. I wrote cover letters to the federal and state taxing authorities explaining the banners and my belief that the information was correct anyway. I mailed the four envelopes to the U.S. I figure that the stuff will get lost in the mail so that no one will see the banners. Stay tuned. Meanwhile, if you can think of a way to pirate some of Intuit's software or ruin their business, or in any way make their lives miserable, please do it.

On Sunday, we took a bus to Estepona, to the west along the coast. Except for the week that Katie and Tom were in Spain, March has been a cold, windy, rainy month. Sunday was only windy which was a great improvement. We went to see our friends, Agnes and Erica from Hungary, who spent nine weeks in our Spanish class with Erica's dog Chutey. They

were involved in an international food exposition and had invited us to come to it. We wanted to say goodbye before they left on Sunday night to head back to Hungary. Estepona was nice. It has the reputation of being a Spanish resort in contrast to the British and German resorts between there and Malaga. On the bus ride back to Malaga, Bill spent an hour in a conference call with Phil and Bill. It was quite a treat for Bill to look at a sparkling Mediterranean out the windows of the bus while conducting some necessary business.

We're planning a two-night stay in Almeria next weekend and are starting to make some long-range plans for a trip to Barcelona and maybe Majorca.

Bill and Cathy