

Television Comes Back to Our Lives

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Television, the idiot box, has a place in my life. During the flood recovery I didn't have a decent television-watching situation. I sporadically watched it. I didn't have cable, satellite or wireless service. I lost track of series I had been following. I missed many new shows and programs people around me discussed. I didn't see any sports unless I went to a watch party or bar. I complained a little, but I didn't really have time for television.

With the recovery 95.9% complete, television has returned to us a bit at a time. Television post-recovery is very different from television before the flood.

We haven't replaced all of our televisions from the 2016 Flood. We've muddled along with the older 32" LED we had installed in the pre-flood kitchen, a huge 2005 Sony CRT TV on the carport, and the 19" LED Kathleen purchased at an estate sale during the summer. I get along fine watching the Sling-TV and Amazon Prime services through the Apple TV. I also have the broadcast antennae hooked up to the SONY. This has worked well enough.

Beyond the televisions, much of what I watch I can stream on my iMac, MacBook, iPhone and iPod. Those screens are small, but when I'm in bed and the screen is a foot from my eyeballs, I can see everything as if it were on a huge screen across the room.

I have been able to watch football, HBO movies and series, and some old-time programming without much trouble. It isn't always convenient. Sometimes I have to change connections and adjust antennae. Getting a decent signal can be challenging.

I am able to watch television in many ways. We don't have the theater-like facility that has become popular in many homes. However, I don't suffer within my circumstances. I get by without a TV in every room, a 72 inch monitor, and surround sound.

Remotes are more troublesome to me. During the recovery misplacing a remote or breaking a remote was common.

In particular, I have run into problems with my Apple TV remotes. These devices aren't big. They are streamlined. They are black. Their interface is made of glass. These features help make the remotes look elegant and sleek.

The features also make them easy to lose. These features make them easy to break. At different times I have lost or broken all three of my Apple TV remotes. When this has happened, I have learned something about my Apple TV capabilities.

Two capacities in particular with which I have become familiar were learned out of desperation. I learned how to use the original or universal television remote with the Apple TV box. I had shattered an Apple TV remote on our kitchen's ceramic floor. I immediately panicked. It continued to work, but little shards of glass flaked off each time I used it. I wanted to buy a new remote, but I couldn't. Apple doesn't sell just a remote. In my quest to purchase a remote,

I discovered internet directions to help me setup my TV's remote with the Apple TV module. It took a little time and effort. It is a handy feature of which I had not been aware.

Secondly, my iPhone and iPod both work as Apple TV remotes. In the back of my mind, I knew this. Like many features and capabilities associated with any technology, unless I use them frequently it is easy to forget about them or never learn to use them. Of course, I lost one of the Apple TV remotes. I thought I couldn't access the service via the associated box. A foggy memory of having used my iPhone to navigate my Apple TV floated into my awareness. With a little effort I found the remote app on the iPhone, paired it with the Apple TV and had access. I eventually found the remote. However, losing that remote gave me an opportunity to learn a valuable alternative.

We are moving into the television shopping mode. We want a particular sized television given where we will place it in our den. We haven't purchased a new television in nearly ten years. Exploring the features and capabilities will be interesting. Given we use Apple TV, the television we purchase doesn't have to be too smart.

We have a lot football to watch and we want that television in hand by the time we get to the big games.

Our current devices seem smart enough to augment any television's basic capacities.

Hopefully, the devices' operators are smart enough.