

Barbara – Day 1

Remember the first season episode of Friends when Rachel's credit card company called to check on her because she had not been charging her normal amount? I wonder whether the night shift over at Verizon Wireless will be worried about us or thankful for the break.

Looking over my most recent statement, I see that I spent 4916 minutes of air time on my cell phone, 1059 of those during off-peak times. That's 811 calls during peak times, and 156 off-peak calls. There were 43,200 minutes in the month of September. I'll stop there- I've already admitted I am addicted to my Blackberry.

So the first day was not too bad. After Tina and I turned off our Blackberrys, our families went out to eat together. I must admit it was nice not to have the distraction of always checking to see what came in. While I usually try to ignore it during dinner time, if I hear a call or email come in, I am distracted by it; wondering who it was or what it was about. But on our first night of this challenge, by leaving my Blackberry in the car during dinner, I did not have that distraction, and I really absorbed more of my family. On this first night, I allowed the exhaustion to overcome me and without my Blackberry on my nightstand to shoot off just a couple more email replies before turning in, I fell asleep before even missing my plastic appendage, an hour earlier than usual.

Tina – Day 1

Withdrawal Symptoms

3am: I usually wake up in the middle of the night to get some water and check my emails. My blackberry is off and I cannot turn it on until 8am. I go back to bed. I toss and turn for 20 minutes. I can't take it. I go to my laptop. I answer emails for 2 hours. My hard drive starts making a clicking noise. Paranoia sets in. What if I'm without my blackberry and laptop? I call Dell support. They tell me that my hard drive is failing – again. This is the second hard drive failure in 6 months – and my laptop is 10 months old. I hit Twitter and send Dell a dissatisfied message. I answer a few more emails. I go back to Twitter to post our “2dayInDFW” events. I cannot log on to Twitter! Is it down? Did it kick me off because of my Dell post? Did I lose another form of communication? Thankfully, my 6 year old snaps me out of my dilemma and I moved to school-prep mode. I try Twitter again after I give the boys breakfast and am thankful to feel connected again.

8am: I drop the boys off at school and immediately turn on my blackberry. I breathe a huge sigh of relief, able to feel connected to the world again. I rush home and begin my fight with Dell, afraid to be without both a blackberry and computer.

4:58pm: Oh no. MetroplexBaby.com is running a Curious George Live! Ticket promo and the winners drawn have an hour to call in to claim their tickets. A new name was posted at 4pm and the tickets have not been claimed. I have two minutes to turn off my blackberry. I have no choice but to post my home number on our home page. I make

dinner for the boys. My home phone rings at 5:20 and the last winner claimed her tickets.

7pm. Both boys are in bed. I want to talk with Barb. She is out with her 6-year old. I feel out of touch and alone.