

## Episode 1 – Halifax Harbor Marina – Daytona Beach, FL



Dear Family and Friends,

My daughters told me that I should post regularly on Facebook while we travel down the Florida coast. Debra even provided a camera for pictures along the way. Then I realized that a lot of you do not keep up with Facebook, so I decided to build an email group of those who just might be interested in our travels. If you are not interested in an extra one or two emails a week, you have two choices; 1) email me and have me delete you from the list, or 2) hit delete.

We turned our houses in The Villages over to renters on Jan 29<sup>th</sup>. Since then, family and friends have sheltered these homeless vagabonds. We have visited with our daughter Debra and her family. There we attended a wrestling tournament where we watched our grandson Lucas finish second in a field of sixteen schools. Go Lucas!!! Our good friends Z and Ray, Larry and Irene, Gary and Sue, and Fain also provided refuge. In addition, we have spent time on our boat "Imagine" in Daytona and The Jekyll Island Club Hotel.

The first plan was to sail up the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) Feb 20<sup>th</sup> to Jekyll Island for a conference. We went on the 19<sup>th</sup> to pick up the motor for our dingy. Due to the snow up north and President's Day, the parts had not come in, and the motor wasn't ready. I decided that was OK because Doug could row the boat. Next, we went to pick up the dingy. When we went to pay for it, the credit card would not go through. It had been compromised that morning. When Doug called and found that it was an on-line charge at 8:30 that morning, we knew it wasn't us. We weren't up yet. Doug talked the credit card

people into honoring the charge for the dingy before they cancelled the card. Then we had to figure out how to get new cards. We had a back up card for limited use until we got the new cards.

Everything was set and ready to go on Thurs morning. Doug switched us off shore power and the batteries did not kick in. After a visit from an electrician we discovered that the inverter was not working properly. That was it. Even though the electrician did a temporary fix, we would not pull out. On Friday, we had the electrician remove the inverter and we drove it to Orlando to have it fixed. The service man could not replace the broken part, because they have not made that inverter since 2004. He repaired the switch and provided us with a control panel which by-passes the switch so that the inverter would work without the problem switch. We spent the week-end with Z in The Villages and then headed back to Daytona for the electrician to put the inverter back on Tues. By then, it was too late to sail up to Jekyll, so we drove and stayed in the hotel with the others. That turned out really well and allowed us to be more a part of the activities.

Looking back, we see that God was really taking care of us. At first we thought God was telling us, with all those roadblocks, not to be a part of the conference, but after we watched the weather reports on that Sunday, we knew it was his protection. If you remember, it rained on the Sunday of the Daytona 500 and there was a 6 hr rain delay. If you looked north to where we would have been if we had left on Thurs, you would have seen serious wind and hail. God kept us safe at Z's house instead of out on the boat.

The conference turned out to be very informative and inspirational. There was great music and some outstanding speakers. Doug really identified with Elvis from Romania. We may try to see him again when we take the Danube River cruise in August.

When we returned from Jekyll, we started preparations for our travels south on the ICW. We decided we had a Jeep load too much "stuff" on the boat and took it to our storage unit before we left. Now we know we should have taken another Jeep load!