

Episode 9 –The “Imagine”

After celebrating a blessed Easter with Z and Ray, catching up on laundry and playing Five Crowns, it was time to continue the journey south. We rented a truck and took the Jeep over to the storage unit before heading to Ft. Pierce. The only cars available at the local Enterprise were too small to take “stuff” back to the boat. Fortunately, we did not need to return the rental until the next day, because that night Joyce learned a lesson about being careful in a crowded space. You have heard that Chicken Soup is Good for the Soul. Unfortunately, it is not good for a laptop. Joyce knocked over a whole mug of chicken soup on her laptop. Even turning it on its side for the night to let it drain did not help. You need to understand how important that laptop was. We listened to audio books downloaded from the library in the Villages on that laptop, as well as watching Downton Abby and movies in addition to writing about our travels.

Doug’s computer does not work for entertainment, but he could check on line for a computer store. Ft. Pierce the largest town in the county is an old town, but does not have a computer store. We had to drive up to Vero Beach to our friendly Office Depot. We chose an inexpensive laptop, but by the time we added software, maintenance, and a big screen for movies, we were over \$1100. Expensive cup of soup!!!! This also meant we needed to stay at Ft. Pierce marina until we could go back and pick up the new computer. So, we returned the rental and went back to lay by the pool and relax.



While hanging out at Ft. Pierce, Doug was able to get his dog “fix.” Of course, we still miss BC but Doug takes every opportunity to play with the traveling dogs. There were two in particular at Ft. Pierce he enjoyed. Both were goldens, one light one called Bailey and one fielding (red) called Roger Rabbit. Both enjoyed attention and Doug enjoyed giving it. One big difference from BC was that they enjoyed the water. Bailey would stand by the pool just waiting for someone to tell him to come on in. He was so well behaved though that he obeyed the rules and stayed out.

One benefit of staying longer was meeting a great couple, Sue and Brett. We talked with Sue at the pool and wound up going to their trawler for a gin and tonic and staying for dinner. They had just completed the Great Loop and had lots of great stories and advice to share.

Thurs, we received a call that our laptop was ready, so we rented another car, a small one this time. Friday morning we headed back to Vero Beach to pick it up. One of Doug’s favorite TV shows (when we are on land) is

Diners, Drive Ins and Dives. He remembered one time when Guy visited a Dining Dive in Deerfield Beach. He decided, since that was only 83 miles away and we had a rental, that we should go to the Whale's Rib for a Key West Mahi Mahi sandwich. Sue and Brett agreed to go on an adventure with us. The Whale's Rib did not take reservations so, after driving an hour and a half, we waited another hour for a table. We did have some snacks while we waited. The food was every bit as good as we expected. We had the Key West Mahi they talked about on the show. Doug also had a great time talking about the recipe for the sauce. However, he did not talk them out of the recipe. We made it back to the marina around 12:00. Consequently, we slept in Sat morning. When we finally managed to get up, Doug returned our rental and we jumped in the car with Sue to visit the Farmer's Market. Because we arrived late, we missed the food. There was some great art work, but we had no room on the boat for it. Maybe another time we'll go back. Even though they were taking down the food stands, they still had music going. When Doug heard the "Power of Love" by Huey Lewis and the News, he thought we should dance. It's such a great bop song, we had a good time. The disc jockey thought it was great to see us dancing on the sidewalk. Then it was time to relax at the pool again.

I have talked about the manatees, dolphins, mullet, and other fish, but in this marina we also had otters. The boat next to us was a charter fishing boat. He kept a bait trap by his boat. One day we saw five otters swimming in a row straight for the trap. The captain told us that they had robbed him in the past and he had had to be creative to keep them out.

Our slip in this marina was right by the restaurant. Three or four nights a week, they had live entertainments. Some of them were not bad, but then there were others. Doug said one of them that tried to do Jimmy Buffet songs was so bad it almost turned him against one of his favorite of Jimmy's songs, "He Went to Paris."

Also, between us and the restaurant was a place for people to clean fish. It was OK most days, but they did not pick up trash on Sunday morning, so when people cleaned fish on Sat, it really smelled bad by Sunday. Once, Doug took a smelly bag of fish scraps and moved it over by the office, so they could smell it when they came it Monday morning.

Sunday, Joyce actually got up before 8:00 to get ready for church. We went with Sue and Brett to REACH Community Church at Archie's. Archie's is an open air restaurant across from the beach. The sign on the restaurant said, "No shirt, no shoes, no problem." Even the preacher was wearing shorts and no shoes. He did have a shirt on though. We sang a few songs, then ate breakfast while the assistant pastor spoke. Then the pastor gave his sermon. It was very much a "seeker" service all about grace and second chances. They used the bandstand for the speakers and the choir (four ladies and a standard poodle). After more songs, they closed with a very informal communion.

After the service, we walked across the street to the beach for a nice long walk. It was a perfect day for walking, and just enjoying God's creation. Since we had not worn our bathing suits, we had to go back to the marina to cool off in the pool. What a life!!!!

Monday, we took a last long hot shower and I washed my hair before leaving the marina. On the boat we need to be more conservative with water. Then we're off after having the boat secure at Ft. Pierce for a month. Pictures, a sunset at Ft. Pierce, Doug getting his dog "fix" with Bailey, and departing Ft. Pierce, note the size of the other catamarans.

To follow our adventures, please go to www.Windsongsail.com, click on "Our Stories" and select our names from the list of "Cruisers".

Love to all,
Capt. Doug and First Mate Joyce