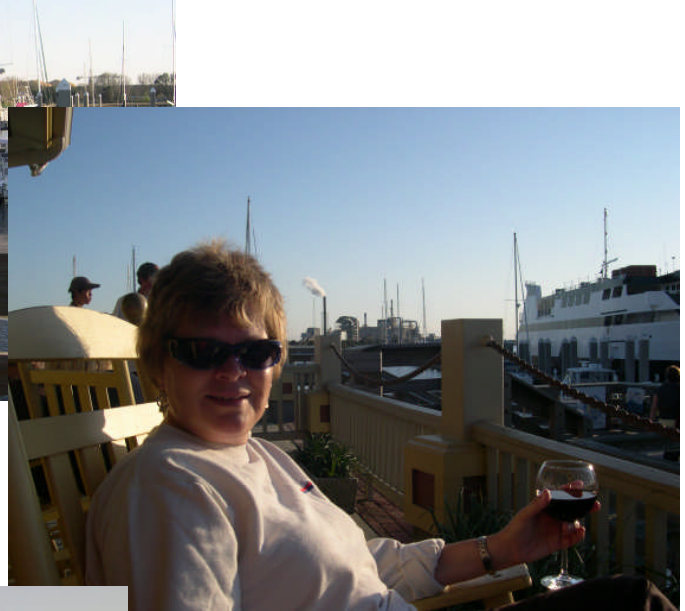


## BACK IN GEORGIA

We stayed on a mooring ball one night at Fernandina Beach on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Fernandina is always nice to visit. We enjoyed taking the dinghy to shore, and strolling around a bit. And, of course, having a sundowner at the local watering hole.



There was a reminder in the mooring field about the seriousness of taking good care of your boat.

Hmmm... are all the hoses in good shape? Through-hulls closed? Bilge pump working?

Casual neglect can be deadly.  
The sea is unforgiving.



The next day, Sunday, we left and headed north. The weather was exceptionally nice, and we decided to go the off-shore route around Cumberland and Jekyll islands to Brunswick. We had 8 to 10 kts of wind, and seas 1' or less. . Hey, this off-shore sailing is GREAT!  
( When the weather is nice! ).

Our goal was St. Simons Sound which is a class A inlet. But the wind eased, and it looked like the extra distance would put us almost at sunset entering the marina. In the interest of time, we came back in through St. Andrews Sound. We dropped the sails and motored through the ICW behind Jekyll and on into Brunswick.



Brunswick Landing Marina is right downtown, within walking distance of shops, stores, and restaurants. The marina has floating docks, nice shower facilities, free laundry, and is value-priced. It's a favorite stopover for ICW cruisers. Highly recommended!





Brunswick is a lovely small Georgia town. It isn't a tourist destination like Fernandina. Hey, this is like a time warp back to the 1950's !



There's beautiful buildings and lots of old-south ambience to see and enjoy as you walk around. ( As long as you walk in the "right" part of town ).

However, the only grocery for cruisers who are hoofing it is the corner market in the low rent district. It's not where you would walk after dark, but we figured daylight is OK. They have dual signs in English and Spanish.

Look closely... they list groceries, meat, produce, condiments, beer, and "human hair". ( ??? )



Of course, with a month layover, there's time to rent a car and visit family in Atlanta. Mary drove back while I used the time to follow up on some boat projects. Gee, do Moms ever get over this urge to check on the kids? Here are some shots of family and friends for our scrapbook: Mary

with our two sons Luke, John, and John's friend Laura Padrone.



Mary and her Mom, Anne Davis:



Mary with her best friend from our old neighborhood, Shirley O'Neill:

Brunswick is a nice place to rest and catch up on projects. The marina is lovely. It only has a few idiosyncrasies. One is the pump out facilities. They use a mobile cart. The trouble is, they won't take it to your dock, you have to move the boat to dock 1. And, only at high tide. And finally, it's only when it's working. The thing's been broken three out of the four weeks we've been here!



Local boaters have to not use their on-board head at all, or, take the boat out to Golden Isles marina, or go three miles off-shore to dump. But I never see the local boats leaving. ( ??? ). There's a 7 foot tide in Brunswick, so it flushes well; but still... **DON'T SWIM IN THE MARINA!** Need I say more?



Cruisers make their own fun. “Sundowners” seem to be a cruising tradition. We’ve met other folks for Sundowners in the Keys, along the Florida coast, and now in Georgia. As the sun disappears, don’t be surprised if someone brings out a conch shell and blows a salute the sunset. Whoooooaaaaannnnkkk !

Another cruising tradition seems to be organizing a pot-luck dinner for any reason at all. Our last night in Brunswick, the local cruisers celebrated... well, I forget the reason.... but everyone got together for a low country boil.

Here’s our friend Jake, taking a break from refinishing his Choy Lee sailboat to be the head cook. He’s mugging for the camera out of modesty. ( and because Jake’s the class clown! ).



As a special treat, Tom got out his bagpipes for a serenade. Tom is a genuine Scotsman, from Glasgow. He and his wife are now cruising the U.S. on their trawler. Mary requested Amazing Grace on the pipes, and Tom quickly agreed.

Mary’s Dad, Dick Davis, says thanks. “Amazing Grace” is his favorite song.





Our month in Brunswick is almost up.  
Time to start securing gear and  
planning the next leg of the trip.

We'll be heading up the ICW to Wilmington.  
Hmm.... I wonder who we'll run into there ?



Here's our track:

March 1<sup>st</sup> – Mooring ball at Fernandina

March 2<sup>nd</sup> – sailed off-shore around Cumberland Island to Brunswick

March 2<sup>nd</sup> – 31st at Brunswick Landing Marina

Nine Month Summary: July 2007 to March 2008

238 miles Charlotte Harbor to Boot Key Harbor

via Pine Island Sound, Fort Myers Beach, Marco, Everglades City, Shark River

74% was off-shore in the gulf; 40% sailing, 60% motoring.

479 statute miles Boot Key Harbor to Fernandina

via Hawk channel in the keys, and ICW inside from Miami

21% was off-shore in Hawk channel; 100% was motoring

51 miles Fernandina to Brunswick

off-shore around Cumberland

70% sailing, 30% motoring.

696 miles under the keel to date.