

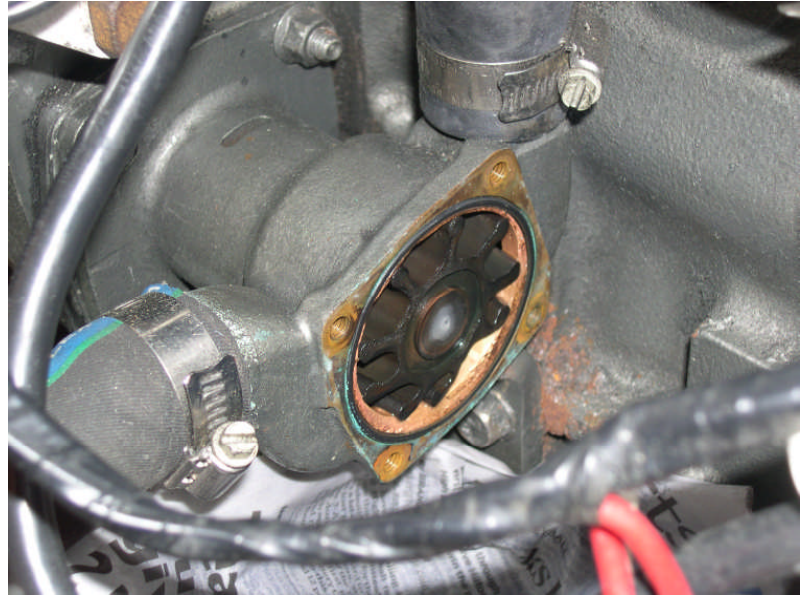
## Underway Again!

We're under way again! After stopping for a year to work, and rebuild our savings account, we're on the boat and headed south. We left November 1<sup>st</sup> as planned.

There's lots to do to "get ready". Being a cruiser means constantly working on your boat. The fresh water impeller should be replaced from time to time, and I last did this in 2007. Here's a part of cruising life where you don't see often; you see photos of sunsets and beaches, but not of the dirty work that gets you there!

For you future cruisers, here's an example of what you're doing when you're not relaxing on the beach. The photo is just after I removed the cover. Why are the blades folded two different directions? I don't know. ( ??? )

Besides the water pump impeller, I changed the oil, installed a new fuel filter, and a new V-belt on the engine.



And of course, there's stowage of all the "stuff" you buy for an extended voyage. There will be chances to shop at some stops, but at irregular times. You can't "run to the store" when you're cruising.

After the big trip to Wal-Mart, there's the head ache of getting everything stored. Here we are with all the compartments open, trying to get everything to fit. Don't step into the bilge!

It's almost time to leave. OH NO!  
The water pump went out! The  
fresh water pump that supplies  
pressurized water to the faucets  
wore out and started leaking. It  
made a mess with water in the  
compartment that had to be  
cleaned up, and a \$300  
replacement pump installed.

Here's Mary about to start  
mopping up the water. Ah the joys  
of cruising !



We have a visit from friends to  
wish us Bon Voyage. Here's  
Susan and Shirley with us at the  
marina.

Later we went out for a day sail;  
Susan helped at the helm while  
Shirley worked the foredeck with  
Mary.



It's great to be SAILING !



We're all set to leave on Nov. 1. But first, let's have a party! The group at the marina held a Halloween party that also served as a farewell from our friends.

Here's Bill & Cheryl Mote. They came as hippies, which of course they are. Didn't they get the word it was supposed to be a costume party?



Finally all the repairs are done, everything is stowed, and we're off the dock and underway. HURRAY !

There's an unseasonable cold snap, and it reminds us why we're migrating. South! Let's get to a warmer latitude! Here's Mary in her classic cruising pose ( on the phone ) as we leave the Wilmington river.

The forecast is for wave height 2' or less, and a favorable wind, so

it's a nice day to sail on the ocean. After anchoring overnight in the Herb River we head out the Wilmington River to Wassaw Sound. Even with the wind behind us we had to gibe several times, so Mary has her "suspender" on as she could work the foredeck when needed; sometimes the genoa or a sheet needed to be cleared. A first rate first mate!

Five days brings us to Jacksonville, where we have a scheduled stop over for maintenance. It's been two years since the last bottom job on the boat, so we have a haul out, new paint, and the hull buffed and waxed at Fleming Island marina. You have to keep up with maintenance. \$2,000 later we're under way again.





A special thanks to Sherryl & Kerry who were kind enough to share their home in Jacksonville with us so we had a place to stay as the boat was worked on.  
THANK YOU !



Here's the Lady Mary as we leave Jacksonville. It's still too COLD! We gotta go further SOUTH!

It's another 400 miles to the Keys.



The famous Bridge of Lions in St. Augustine. It's still under repairs for another year.





Here's "Gideon" on a mooring ball in Vero Beach. It's a great stop over for cruisers.

They put up to three boats on a single mooring. Thankfully cruisers are friendly!

And, finally, our Thanksgiving destination, Sunset Bay marina in Stuart Florida. We're on a mooring ball so we commute to shore in the dinghy.

You can see why they call it Sunset Bay! We left the boat for a few days to spend Thanksgiving with family.



Here's "Pops" and Joyce, our favorite people to visit in North Fort Myers. We had a great Thanksgiving visit. Thanks, Pops!

What do you think of Mary's new "do"?

She calls it her "boat wench hair".

What's next? We plan to continue on south in December, with stops in Miami, Boca Chita, and Marathon. Then, if the weather cooperates, over to the Bahamas in the spring.

We're on a "Six & Six" plan. Six months cruising, and then six months working to pay for it! We'll be back in friendly Beaufort by May 2010. See you then !

...Rapid Roy and Lady Mary  
aboard S/V "Gideon"



P.S....

Hey, before we left Port Royal, we crossed wakes with the other cruisers from Atlanta. Eric and Mary Hars stopped at Port Royal for a few weeks. They're in Beaufort North Carolina right now; their goal is to cruise the Chesapeake. Great to see you guys!

