

Between and Betwixt

We're back at the docks in Port Royal for now. **"Between Cruises"**. I suppose there are some cruisers who stay moving all the time, but I haven't met any. Many cruisers are simply live-aboards. Their boat rarely, if ever leaves the marina. Others stop briefly here and there, for a month's lay over. Our past year was six months at Port Royal, then six months cruising.

After our cruise in Florida, it's time to work and rebuild our savings. And, also time to catch up on some boat projects. First up is refinishing the teak. It's been six months since the last Cetol touch up.

Ah, the joys of wood work! Our Island Packet only has teak trim, but still, it's enough to consume my spare time for a month!



They were moving the boat from Charleston back to Hilton Head. I won't tell you where we first met on this trip, but yes, it was in my professional capacity. (Smile!).

But, things livened up after that, with a visit from some Atlanta friends. Faith & Wayne stopped by aboard "Sheer Pleasure". GREAT!



Having a dinghy is one of the fun parts of cruising. Ours is a “rib” and it has enough power to get on plane. That can make for an exciting ride! And, it’s always fun to take the crew over to the sand bar for a few hours.



Sand bar? Yes, with eight foot tides, there are several sand bars in the Beaufort area that uncover at low tide. It’s closer than the beach, and going by dinghy is more fun than a car ride.



“Skipper” didn’t like the sandbar. The sand is WET! How do I get back in the BOAT!



Having a boat on the coast provides a nice vacation destination for the rest of the family. Hey, Mom & Dad have waterfront property! After finals at college, the kids came for a visit.



Our son John is a senior at Southern Polytech, studying Industrial Engineering.

John's fiancé Laura is in the Pharmacy program at Auburn. We were blessed to have them visit us after the spring semester ended.

Of course, everyone works on a boat! Here's the college kids shucking corn; later John did the honors of grilling corn and chicken on the Magma grill. Delicious!



Our son Luke returned from overseas. After getting his college degree he bugged out and spent two years as a Scuba Instructor in the Solomon Islands.

I'm envious! He's smarter than I was at his age, to make a life style choice instead of just going corporate.

Here's the family, plus Luke's friend Jason, to welcome him at the airport.





So what's the first thing you do after eating fish for two years? Go to Chick-Fil-La !

A few days later, another arrival. While he was working in the Solomons, Luke met Emma, a lovely young British medical student.

They're serious about each other, and Emma came to Atlanta to see Luke and to meet his family.

So... what do you do when your kid from the South Pacific and his girl from England arrange to meet each other in Atlanta???

IT'S TIME FOR A PARTY !!!



A huge THANK YOU to the O'Neill's who let us use their home for a big send-off party for Luke & Emma.

Send off ? Yes, Emma has enthralled our young adventurer; he's going to give up his idyllic life in the South Seas, and make a move to Merry Olde England.





We persuaded them to visit the coast before flying off to London. A day in the sun, a day at the beach, and a day sailing on "Gideon".

Luke and Emma are now in Wales as Emma goes through her internship as a Doctor. Our thoughts and our prayers are with you !

And, another huge THANK YOU to our daughter Theresa and her husband Matt. We stayed with them during our visits to Atlanta. It's always nice to visit and see family!

A final family photo. Each of our three kids is "accounted for" and has found a wonderful person to love. Mary and I couldn't be happier with their choices.



Here's the kids and their partners. Luke, Emma, Theresa, Matt, Laura, and John. God bless !

July 7th is our anniversary. Mary and I spent the day in Savannah.



From our dock, it's only 45 minutes away on the local roads.

We were thinking of Luke, who's now with Emma in England; so, we stopped in at the "Six Pence Pub". Scotch eggs and Guinness!



OK... enough of this mushy family stuff. Time to do some WORK! I love PLUMBING! (Not!). A cruiser's work is never done. I don't go to work, I wake up surrounded by it!



I have the skills to handle most plumbing issues, but I admit I don't enjoy it. This project was a new fitting spliced into the sanitation hose on the forward head.

There's a long horizontal run to the holding tank. Scale deposits build up inside the hose. Periodically I have to flush it out. The plumber's nightmare you see here allows me to do it easily.

I've never dealt with varnish. However, some of the interior wood is showing wear, and I figured it was time that I learned.

The worst piece on the boat was a teak shower seat. It gets soap on it and the lye content in the soap eats through the finish.

Having wood in a shower isn't a good design; the newer boats don't have it. The showers are fiberglass enclosures.



The varnish was half there, half gone, with splotches of bare wood showing. I took my time, read the directions, got some expert advice from friends, and refinished the seat as my first varnish project. Hey... that looks pretty good!

What's coming up? More work projects, as I can afford the parts. Installation of a new below decks auto-pilot will be a BIG DEAL. I have to do some fiberglass work to create the mounting platform for it. And, it's \$5,000 just to buy the parts! OUCH! Meanwhile, Mary and I are both working part time to rebuild our savings.



But hey, Life is Good even when you're between cruises! There's always fun stuff happening at the marina.

Here's the crew from Port Royal Landing marina entered in the local holiday raft race. Our team was the Port Royal Pirates !



We're already planning another cruise over the winter months. We'll move south to warmer weather for December, January, and February. Jacksonville? St. Augustine? Titusville? Who knows?

Long term... the Bahamas? Perhaps Cuba will open up? As we build experience, we'll look to the rest of the Caribbean.

There's always new destinations in our dreams !

...Roy & Mary
S/V "Gideon"



P.S. We've been invited to speak at the August 19th Power Squadron meeting in Atlanta. GREAT! We look forward to seeing all of our friends again !