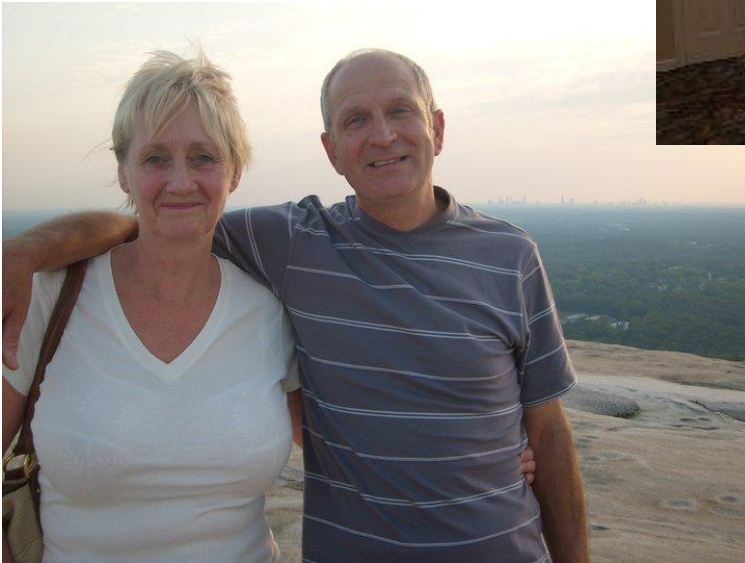


## HOT TIMES!

It's been a busy time; there's been lots of things happening in our family!

I finished updating the Cetol on the Island Packet's wood trim, just in time for our visitors from the UK. Keven & Jenny White arrived a few days before our son John's wedding, along with Luke & Emma.



Luke & Emma stayed at Hilton Head, while Keven and Jenny bunked on the boat with us.

The "old folks" stayed together... (smile!).

Keven was a Chief in the British Navy. Fortunately, he was kind and didn't put the boat through an inspection! I'm sure a lot of the stainless wouldn't be up to Navy standards!





We went for a brief cruise. Here's Jenny and Mary on deck, getting ready to dock. Hmm... or ready to harpoon something?

Why do people on the foredeck always tie up their hands by grabbing a boat hook?

All ended well. We arrived safely back at the marina and crashed into the dock at 0.1 mph. I figure that's just about right !

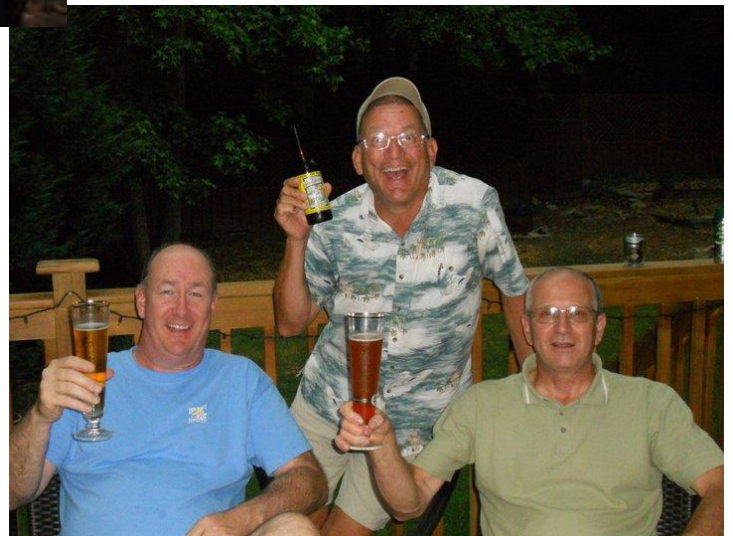


MEANWHILE... plans proceeded for the WEDDING! The focus moved back to Atlanta. Our good friends Jeff & Shirley O'Neill hosted the Whites for a few days.

As with any wedding, there were parties. Is there such a thing as too many parties?

Are we having a good time yet ?

I'm drinking an English brew, while Keven tries a Sam Adams. ( Ha! Brewed by those damn Rebels! )



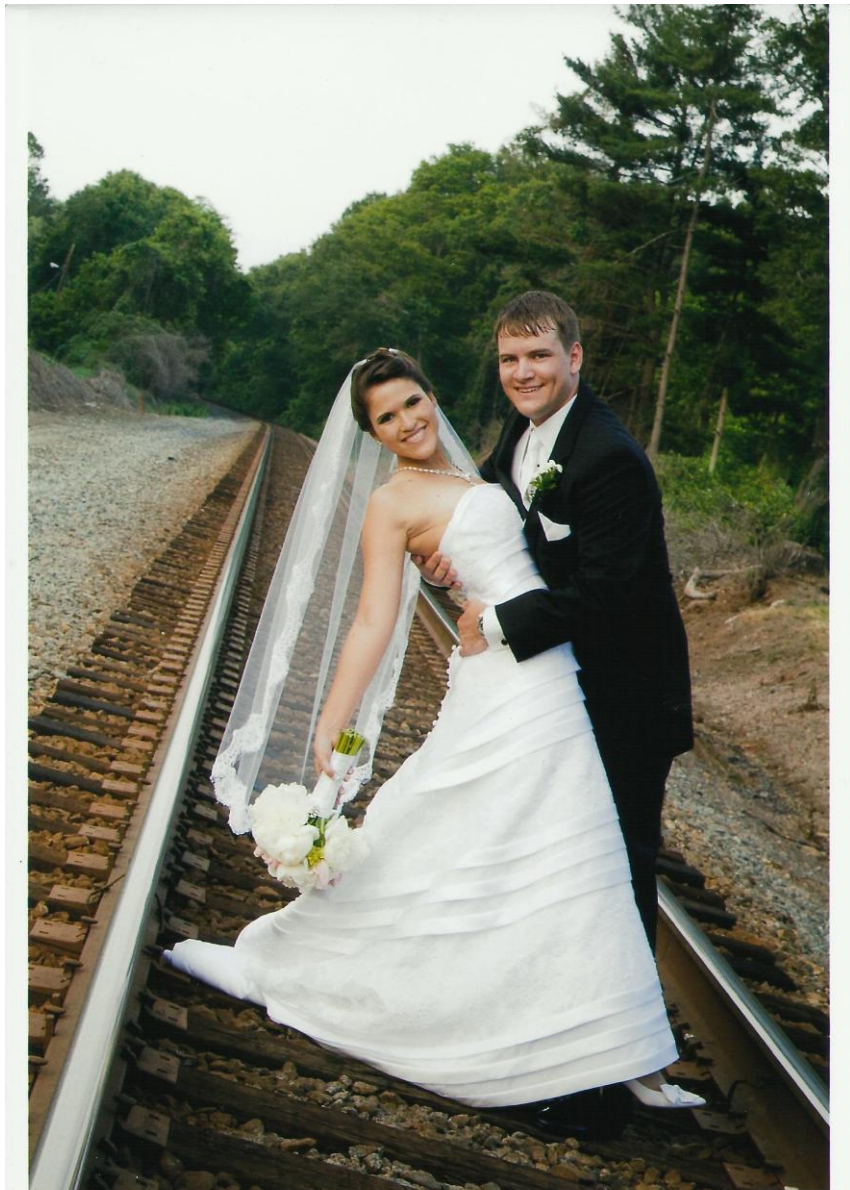


It's also a time for family. Relatives you haven't seen in years show up. This is a good thing; it brings joy!

Here's the Stegall boys. Ben and Roy.

We grew up so close that we knew what each other was thinking as we worked together, summers on the ranch in Oklahoma.

I haven't seen Ben in six years! What a blessing!



The big day. Our youngest kid (John) marries his high school sweetheart, Laura Padron.

Don't worry, they were off the train tracks before the freight trains came through.

(Do you think this was a staged photo? Yes...)

John, you're a lucky buck. Laura absolutely has to be the world's most beautiful bride !



Here's the full crew.

A few years ago we had three kids; now they're married so we have six kids and love them all !

Emma and Luke, Mary, John and Laura, Rapid Roy, Theresa and Matt.

All the boys are now "supervised". (Smile!)

Festivities over; trips to the airport and goodbyes are done. Back to the marina for us! And, back to work; like many early retirees, the budget doesn't quite balance without a little help. Mary works night shift as an RN at the hospital a couple of nights a week.

The TowBoat US business has been slow, so I found another job. Working at West Marine is a common thing for cruisers; it's a good part time job, and a cruiser's knowledge brings added value. Hey... talking about boats and sailing all day is fun!

Here's Rapid Roy wearing Red-White-&-Blue for the West Marine Fourth of July sale.

Personally, I think it shows a lot of style; not everyone looks good in a hat!





Work continues on the boat. There's always maintenance work. And, Mary and I are back and forth frequently on the dock and walking up to the marina.

Our cat "Skipper" usually relaxes onboard or on the dock and keeps an eye on things.

Wait a minute... I haven't seen the cat this afternoon. Where's "Skipper"? She's not ANYWHERE on the boat. She's not out on the dock. Where the hell...???

**OH NO! SKIPPER HAS FALLEN IN THE WATER !**

**NOW SHE'S INSIDE THE FLOATING DOCK !**

Skipper wasn't able to claw her way back up on a fender or boat, but, she somehow managed to get out of the water by crawling up between two sections of the floating dock, and then into the cable chase that threads through the middle of the concrete floating dock sections! We could hear a very, very faint "meow" coming from inside the floating dock!

The joint between dock sections at the surface is only a 1/2 inch wide. Our friend Gene who is a diver went into the water, but couldn't reach where Skipper was perched. Adam, a marina dockhand, opens an access panel, but Skipper was four feet away, where the cable chase spans between dock sections. There's no way to reach her!



A plan develops. Gene goes back in the water with a boat hook, and "pokes" at Skipper where she's perched. Mary calls to Skipper through the access panel. The three inch high cable run connects through. If only Skipper will slink through the cable chase... poke – poke – poke. Finally, Skipper crawls through. ( A wet cat crawling on top of cables carrying 500 amps of electricity! ).

She emerges from the access panel, and **THE WET GREASY CAT RUNS TO THE BOAT !!!**

Ha ha! The hatch was closed, so she can't get in and soil the upholstery!





Time for detergent and a bath!

Here's Skipper being blow-dried. It's the final step in her shampoo and spa treatment.

You can see she's really enjoying it... (Smile!).

Meanwhile, life goes on in the "Low Country" and along the Beaufort River. Do you think you have fun on the lake?

Take a look at a typical weekend scene on the "sand bar" in the river near downtown Beaufort. (right next to the ICW channel!).

These Carolina boys and girls know how to have fun !



The beauty of nature and the water surrounds us. There's beauty in the mountains and in the deserts too, but the ocean is still special. We are constantly amazed.



Living on the water, you see both the strange and the sublime. Here's an ICW snow bird, who has the best of both worlds; he has his truck and RV trailer on a self-propelled barge!



And for the other extreme; "Enticer", a restored 1935 Mathis/Trumpy yacht.



By the way, "Enticer" is for sale. Only \$3.3 million. Maybe the guy with the camper could trade up?

Mary has continued working night shift as an RN at Beaufort Memorial Hospital. She's been working more hours than usual, to help build up our savings so we can "take off" later. Thank God that I somehow lucked into marrying a beautiful, intelligent, and hard-working woman !

My work has been upgrades to the boat. These include more fans, a new Raymarine autopilot, and a Raymarine SR50 Sirius satellite radio receiver. The Sirius receiver is for marine weather; but it can also receive the entertainment channels.

The marine satellite weather is another example of "leap frogging technology". I've been following the classic advice to hook up a SSB receiver in order to receive weather fax. It's a pain. You need about \$5K worth of equipment. Then, you have to tune in at exactly the right time, on exactly the right frequency, with all of your electrical system shut down, with the radio cabled to a pactor modem cabled to a computer running the fax software. If you do everything right and there's not too much static, you get a map of the weather.



OR... you install a Sirius satellite marine weather receiver, pay a subscription fee, and you can view color weather charts anytime you want. Get it? Multiple weather charts! In color! At any time!

The Sirius XM weather is a \$30 subscription fee, but it frees you from being a slave to the short wave radio.

You still need the SSB radio. It allows you to listen to voice weather broadcasts (Chris Parker, and Iron Mike on NMN), and to communicate over long distances to other boats and if necessary to the Coast Guard. Here's links to Iron Mike, NMN...

<http://www.weather.gov/om/marine/hfvprod.htm> and, Chris Parker...

<http://www.caribwx.com/>

There are other examples on leap frogging technology. Satellite phones are the new thing for off-shore internet and e-mail. And the new generation of smart phones is changing everything; or, they will, as soon as Bahamas BTC catches up... (Smile!).

Mary and I are enjoying our lifestyle living aboard... counting down... working... and making our plans for our next cruise.

November 1<sup>st</sup>, we're outa here!

South to Florida and then over to the Bahamas for the winter !

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



P.S.... to my good friend Fred Lux...

See you soon !