

## COUNTDOWN TO CRUISE!

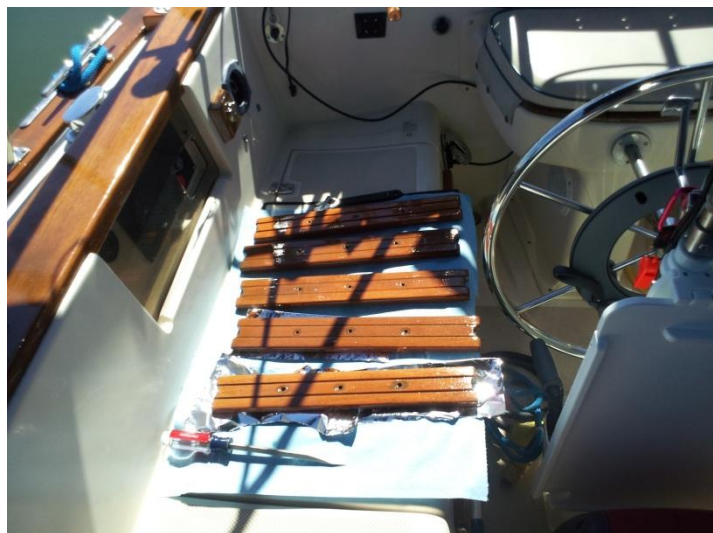
OK... enough fun. Winter is coming. Snowbirds need to get ready to go South. We won't spend another winter north of 31 degrees!

Mary and I are back aboard S/V Gideon at Port Royal Landing Marina. It's time to wrap up some projects, so we can leave and go cruising again!

The Admiral wants a larger cockpit table as an improvement. It's about 50% larger than the small teak table we had. Hey, that's one less wood item I have to refinish!



And, speaking of refinishing teak, the beat goes on...



refinishing the boarding ladder steps...



Refinishing the binocular rack and the drink-holder....

And, the companionway doors...



And, the companionway facings...



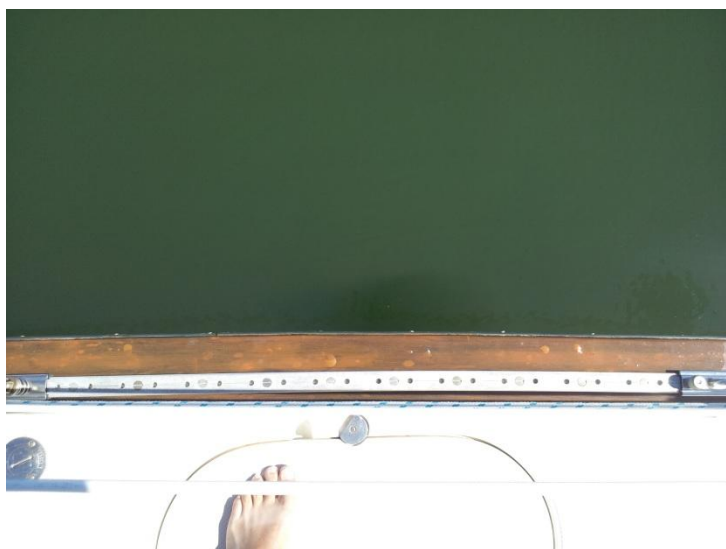
I'm using the phrase "refinish" in a general way. In most cases I just do a light touch-up of two coats of Cetol Gloss.

If I do this before there is any damage to the surface, it's quick and relatively easy. The two new coats renews the UV protection for the finish.

**BUT...** If I wait too long... or I'm careless in application... or if water has somehow gotten into or under the surface... **I MAY HAVE BIG PROBLEMS!**

Here's the toe-rail. (looking straight down). It shows evidence of mildew discoloration and blistering. Aaargh !

Ah, the joys of owning a boat with teak!





I shouldn't complain. I once looked at purchasing a motor-sailor with a teak deck. It was in a boat yard, and the work of stripping the old wood was already done. It needed to be reinstalled, sanded, caulked, and a sealant applied. Before making an offer, I asked the boatyard for their estimate to finish the job on the teak deck. "\$25,000". (Oh No!). I quickly changed my mind on buying the boat. Beware of boats with teak decks!

My Island Packet has teak trim for appearance, but not a teak deck. I have a built-in hobby which keeps me busy and amused twice a year ( spring and fall is when I do the teak work ).

The photos above, plus the work I did on the rest of the teak, kept me entertained, off the streets, and out of trouble through the month of September. (Smile!).

Of course, I don't have to do all this work alone. The crew pitches in to help. Here's "Skipper" supervising.

And, checking whether the finish is dry.

WHO LET THE CAT OUT???!?!?!!



I'm not complaining about doing the wood. It's time consuming and tedious. But, it's also "therapy".

I still love my Island Packet!

Wait... NEWS !!!

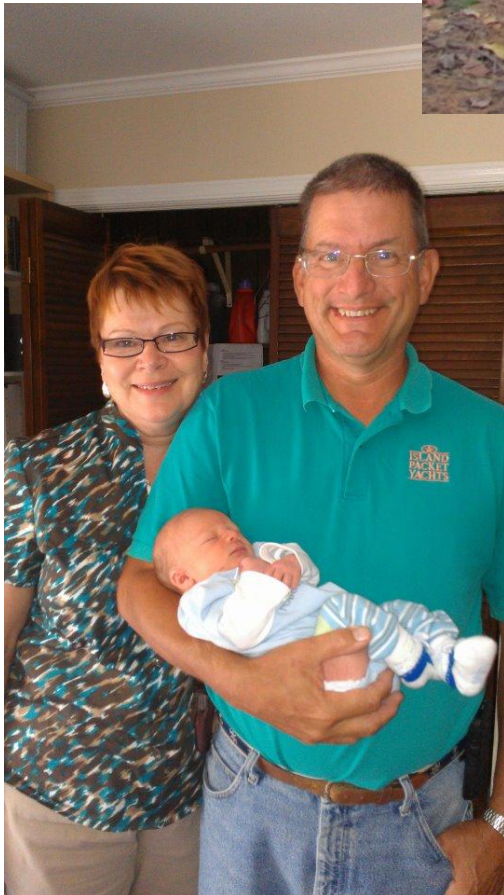
OUR FIRST  
GRANDBABY  
ARRIVED !!!

Elijah Matthew Beazley  
born October 16, 2011.

Hallelujah!



Theresa, Eli, and Matt Beazley.



Gram and Baby Beazley.

I tried to find a pic of Mary with her face up while holding the baby. There isn't one. She is really, really, focused on her new grandson !

Babies first laugh out loud when they're about six weeks old. That's when their eyes can focus well enough to see what their grandparents look like !

Mary stayed with our daughter Theresa and helped out; she arrived a week before, and stayed and handled the housework and cooking for a week after the delivery. Theresa could focus on her new baby.





Ha! After checking a dozen photos, I finally found a shot of Mary looking at the CAMERA instead of at the BABY !

We are so happy, and so blest, with a beautiful healthy new baby in the family. Congratulations, Matt & Theresa !

It's getting late into October. Time to get serious...

But not too serious, yet! It's MARY'S BIRTHDAY !

(She let me order the cake).

Final preparations for departure. Provisioning.



Diesel jugs, inflatable life jackets, dock lines, and getting everything stowed.

Our handy little Honda 2000 generator is back on board. "Skipper" supervised all of the loading.

A note about the Honda generator. When we're anchored for several days, the batteries have to be recharged regularly. The traditional way is by running the diesel for a couple of hours a day. BUT... considering the time on the engine and its maintenance cost, I don't like doing that. The little Honda 2000 is a nice alternative. By using it, I save wear and tear on the main engine, and we get 110V juice and can watch television in the evening while the batteries are charging.

What about wind or solar power? Yes, they both help. But many cruisers use more juice than they put out, and still have to recharge the batteries with the engine or a generator; perhaps just less often. We have an Air-Breeze wind generator installed. On a windy day with steady 15 kt winds it handles everything. But, most days aren't that windy! So, we love our little Honda, to keep all of our toys charged, use our computer, and enjoy television in the evenings!

And... WE'RE UNDERWAY! Our goal was to depart by November 1<sup>st</sup>. We beat that and we were away from the dock the morning of October 30<sup>th</sup> Hurray!!!

WE'RE HEADING SOUTH FOR THE WINTER! GEORGETOWN OR BUST !



Hey... What did you guys do with the dock?



Can I find it if I climb up the mast... ?

No, I still don't see it.

WHERE'S THE DOCK ?

"Skipper" has spent her life on board, but mostly with the boat at the dock. I'm sure she'll figure it out... (Smile!)

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