

WE'RE OUTTA HERE!

Enough preparation already. Time to MOVE! Set sail! Departure! South for the winter! I had figured departure from Port Royal for November 1st (since the October dock fees were already paid for the month). But, everything was ready so we left just after the marina's Halloween Party. We set sail on October 30th.

Well... set sail in a generic sense. We motored down the ICW. The dirty secret of sailboat cruisers on the intracoastal is that 90% of our time is motoring.

It was a new experience for "Skipper". She's been underway a few times before, but now it was day after day of NO DOCK ! Still, she enjoyed the bird watching!



We used the usual anchorages. Herb River, Wahoo River, Fredericka River, and Bells River by Fernandina. This was now our fifth trip down the ICW. It's a bit different. The first time, we took pics of EVERYTHING! It was all new and exciting; the wilderness anchorages and the expensive homes and the other boats we passed.

This time, the sights were familiar, and our interests changed. We focused more on the waterfront villages and the cities where there were interesting sights ashore. We visited old friends like Fernandina and St. Augustine. We made new friends like Melbourne and Cocoa Village. We stayed over extra days at seven different stops between Port Royal and Miami. This time, we "stopped to smell the roses".



There were many amusements along the way. Here's some of the sights:

A TowBoat captain in Fernandina who obviously lives close to his work. The sailboat wasn't being towed, it's the Captains home!

The Bridge of Lions has been rebuilt in St. Augustine, and the Lions are back!



Shopping is always fun. Hey... where are the hardware stores?



Mary even found a "Tilly" hat for cruising! (It's more practical than the other one she tried on!).



The cruising life can be tough...



water, in the middle of nowhere. Miles from any land.

Ah... the sunsets !



I'm not sure how we manage it... (Smile!).

Anchored out in the middle of Mosquito Lagoon. Five foot draft in seven feet of



The Seven Seas holds their annual “gam” at Melbourne in early November. It’s the perfect time for snowbirds on their way south. This time, we came by boat!



Next stopover is at Stuart. The mooring field is a great price performer, plus it's a chance to reunite with family and friends!

Mary's Dad and his cute little Newfie girlfriend drove over to see us! Here's Dick Davis and Joyce Mullett.

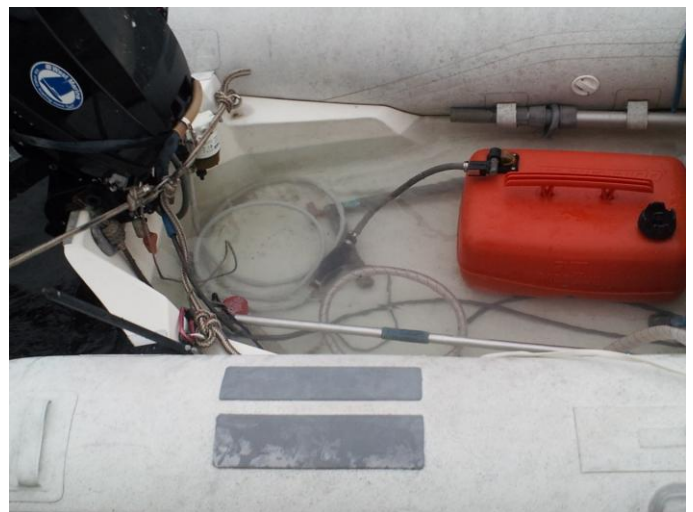


And, Mary with Joyce and her daughter Donna.

Is it Thursday? Rum Runner time!

OH NO! IT RAINED! There's 8 inches of water in the stern of the dinghy! It takes half an hour to bail it by hand!

Never fear; Rapid Roy has rigged an electric bilge pump for the dinghy! The pump is the small red thing at lower left. There's a long cord I can plug into a 12V socket in the sailboat cockpit. HA! Dinghy emptied with no bailing!!! (Smug Smile!).





Stuart is a super nice facility. And, we feel the mooring field here is “safe” to leave the boat for a few days.

The wind generator will keep the batteries charged, and will keep the food refrigeration going.

Time for a family visit back to Atlanta for Thanksgiving! We get AirTran tickets and make the trip.

Well... it's not just Thanksgiving. There's a new member of the family. Mary feels a magical magnetic attraction to Elijah.

Here's “Gram” and her first grandchild!



I have to admit the little bugger is cute! Welcome to the family, Elijah!

A real family Thanksgiving Dinner, with all the trimmings!

God bless Matt and Theresa for opening their home and hosting our Thanksgiving holiday!



The whole family... almost. We miss Luke & Emma, who are in the UK. There's been many changes since the last Thanksgiving. Two weddings, two new kids (we count spouses are "our kids" now), plus a new grandbaby!

Wow... Thank You Lord! We are blessed !

It's also a time to visit those who can no longer travel. Here's Mary with her Mom, Anne Davis.

May God's grace and peace be with you, Anne!

Back to the boat, and underway again.
HEADING SOUTH!

Here's the Admiral at the helm.

We anchor in North Lake Worth,
where we go ashore again and explore,
and layover a day for weather.



Here's the dinghy landing in Lake Worth, by the bridge on the creek into Little Lake Worth.



And, looking the other way, there's a pair of cruisers "hoofing it" with their groceries back to their dinghy.

Does it look primitive? Walking to the grocery store? This is our life style.

But... there are rewards... (Smile!). Hoisting a pint at Duffy's. Ha! Mine is bigger!



Still working our way South. Always South. Coast Guard regulations require us to maintain a sharp lookout at all times. Ha! Skipper is our designated lookout!

This isn't a staged photo. Skipper can run and jump and claw her way up the lines bundled over the winches on the side of the mast.



Anchorage in Lake Boca Raton, with the famous Boca Raton Club in the background.

And, a stop in Fort Lauderdale...

We getting close now... warmer...



Hey! The Flagler Monument! We've arrived!

It's on an island in Biscayne Bay, just behind Miami Beach. You can only get there by boat.



Between the Monument and Miami Beach is a popular anchorage area.

We “stop and smell the roses” for a few days, visiting South Beach.

We enjoy the same water view of Biscayne Bay as the people in the million dollar condos!

Ha! Their view... is US! I’m tempted to moon them. (Smile!). But, it would probably not be a good idea.

We’re in Miami Beach on December 1st. Time to wrap up this month’s edition of the Stegall travelogue.

NEXT MONTH... GEORGETOWN OR BUST !

...Roy & Mary
S/V “Gideon”