

PORT ROYAL COMFORT ZONE

When we started cruising five years ago, we didn't plan to have a home port. I didn't want one; but, I guess we've acquired one. (Smile!). We're in our Port Royal Comfort Zone!

The first year was full time cruising, with only transient stops, never putting down any roots. But maintenance on the boat was expensive, and our costs were more than I forecast. I was drawing on retirement savings to make ends meet. I HATE THAT! We stopped in Port Royal and we both got part time jobs so we could balance the budget, and save for the next cruise.

The edge of adventure has worn down. We've cruised both coasts of Florida, the Keys, the entire length of the ICW, Chesapeake Bay, and the Bahamas. Our trip north as we returned last spring didn't have any pizzaz. We didn't take many pictures. We'd seen the sights before... five or six times!



Our plan is to spend a year in Port Royal, and our next adventure will be a trip next summer to Newfoundland... by car!

A grand driving tour through New York, Maine, Nova Scotia, and finally Newfoundland, the "rock"!

So.... What do we do with the boat? It's ready to go on the next cruise, but we're not. At least not right now. MEANWHILE... we're living on water front property. We wake up surrounded by the beauty of nature and the charm of the low country coast line.

We're both working part time, but on our own schedules. Living on a boat on the coast is a wonderful thing! AND... there's always work to do. I'm catching up on telling our story through pictures.

While in the Bahamas, Mary shopped for fabric to use in her hobby as a Quilter. Here's some of the results;



Pillows made from Androsia fabric, and a table-top runner with fabric showing tropical blossoms;



A quilt showing the beautiful symmetry of wave patterns with Androsia fabric;



Another quilt showing waves on the water in the deep blue of tropical sea colors.



A "Tee-Shirt Quilt" for Laura!

BEAUTIFUL!

I'VE MARRIED AN ARTIST!



There's ALWAYS maintenance work on the boat. It has teak wood trim that must be kept nice.

If there's no damage I can renew the UV protection with an additional gloss coat on top.

But, it's been five years since it was refinished, and it's showing flaws that come with age.

UH-OH... time to strip it down to bare wood again!



Here's Roy's spring and summer project to work on the teak wood toerail.

There's rotten wood behind the stainless trim strip! That has to be fixed with filler. The project just became twice as big!

Stripping.. filling... then sanding for a smooth finish before applying the Cetol.

Here's sanding in progress. The project dragged on long enough (meaning: I work slow) that the bare wood weathered. The gold color on the right is the sanded teak.

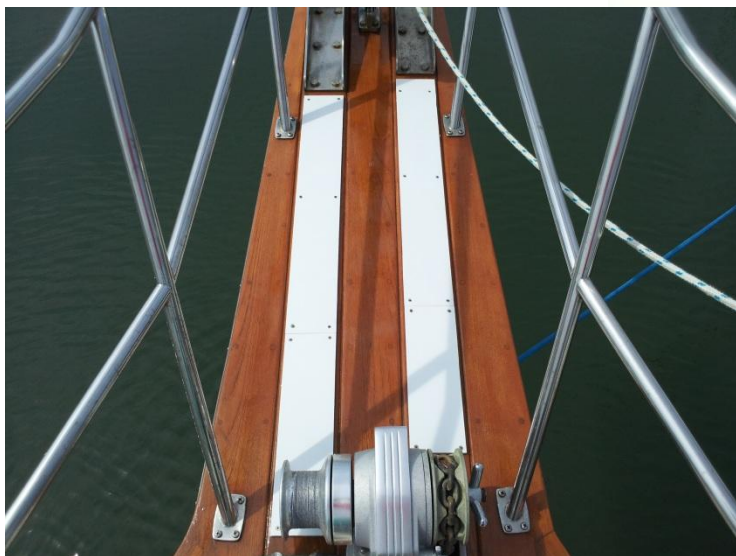




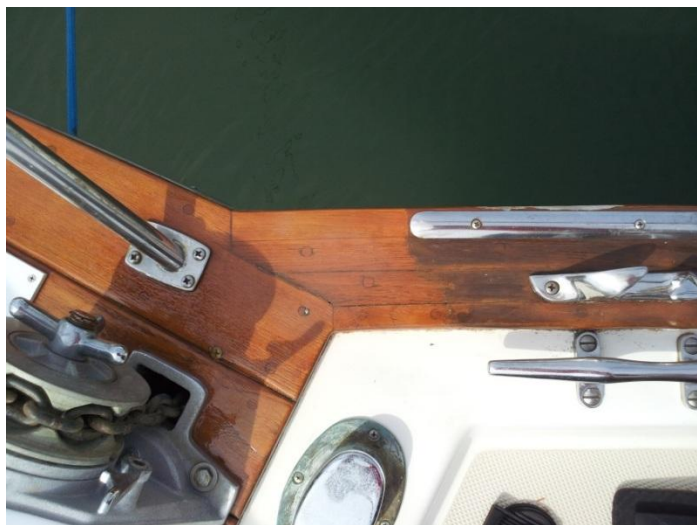
And I have another problem. The braces for the radar mast are on top of the wood, and they're "loose". The radar mast wobbles when we go off-shore. NOT GOOD!

It's time for the braces to be re-engineered with a more robust solution.

MEANWHILE... I use lashings and a couple of wood 2x2's as "temporary" braces for the radar mast, while I refinish the wood. Those Boy Scout lashing skills finally come in handy!



Finally... DONE! Caring for teak is time consuming... but it's SO BEAUTIFUL when its finished!



The photos here covers five months of part-time work!

Work is done... TIME FOR SOME FUN!



We have a car here, but a dinghy ride is a more fun! (And, it needs to be run from time to time to keep the 2-cycle engine in tune).

I sneak away in the dingy for a quick buzz ride three miles to downtown Beaufort, and have an appetizer and a beer at "Luthers".

LIFE IS GOOD!



THE BRITISH ARE COMING! THE BRITISH ARE COMING! Well, a few of them anyway. Our son Luke and his English bride Emma are visiting from the UK. Since they're here... LET'S HAVE A FAMILY REUNION !

Luke & Emma's first stop in the USA is... Chick-Fil-A ! Yes, really !





Here's our 2012 "Family Reunion" story in pictures;

A visit to Grandma...
Luke, Mary, and John with
Anne Davis.

Mary with BFF's in Atlanta;
Sherryl and Shirley.



Theresa Beazley with baby
Elijah.

These two have a mysterious
magnetic attraction for Mary;
our daughter and grandbaby!

Our English daughter Emma seeing the sights in Atlanta, at the Atlanta Zoo.



Scene shift. It's time for a ROAD TRIP!
We drive to New York to spend time at Pops
place, "The River".



Mary, Aunt Joyce, and Roy at a
stopover visit in Syracuse New
York

WE'RE HERE!
The Mighty St. Lawrence River!
Sixty feet deep and a mile wide!

This is the view from the front of Dick
Davis' summer home on the St. Lawrence.

Brockville Canada is on the far shoreline.





Dick started a challenge several years ago. Why take a shower, when there's an entire river of clean fresh water out front?

The water's a balmy 70 degrees!
Grab a towel and a bar of soap and
GO FOR IT !

"Raven" learns about retrieval...
...and water temperatures...
(smile!).

She did not like the COLD
WATER !

The boys tackle maintenance
chores around the place.



Pressure washing the Camp for "Pops"

And the ever popular Flag Pole Painting !





While the girls... well....
Girls “make things”



Laura Stegall (above) and Emma Stegall
(right) using a pottery wheel at Mare’s
Wares in Morristown New York.

I don’t know why, but it seems the
smaller the boat, the more FUN it is.

You’re close to the water, and you can
feel the speed and the excitement!



Luke, Emma, Laura, and John
venture out in a small craft on the
MIGHTY ST. LAWRENCE!!



And finally... day is done, gone the sun, time for a **CAMP FIRE!**

Who remembers how to make S'Mores?

All good things must end. Vacation is over; time to say goodbye to "The River".



We're back from New York and back on the boat. It's the heat of the summer. How to stay cool? Our boat has a built-in 16,000 BTU heat pump / air conditioner. It does pretty good... but it needs some help in July and August.



We add a second, hatch-mounted CruiseAir air conditioner rated at 12,000 BTU on the forward hatch over the master berth. And, we spread a tarpaulin as a sun shade.

It may look funny, but it keeps the sun off the fiberglass deck. That's **COOL!**

Summer brings it's own fun in the "Low Country". There's always something happening in Beaufort. In July they have their annual Water Festival, with fun and games.

Including their famous RAFT RACE!



Ha! Raft Race?

More like mayhem on the water !

A sad note.

Our beloved Mom, Anne Davis, passed away on August 25th, 2012.

It's all part of the circle of life.

Meanwhile, we treasure our memories.
Here's some photos of her;

Art Davis, Anne, and Mary in Jan. 2010

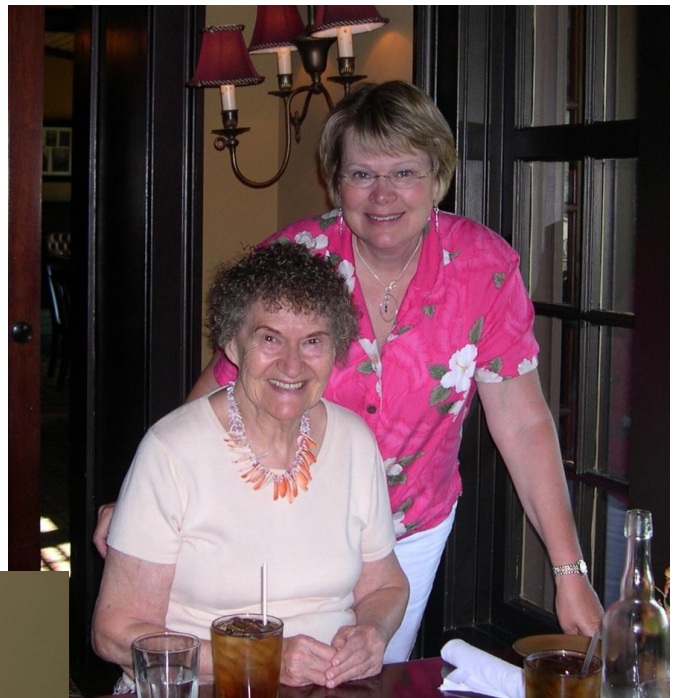




Anne at "Snow Day" 2006 celebration at Church;

Queen Anne with the Snow Queens!

Anne was the personification of the Sinatra song "I Did It My Way". She was a strong woman who lived her dreams... and by force of will even soared beyond them.



God's peace to you, Anne !

Finally the summer weather breaks in September and we move into the cooler temperatures of fall. TIME FOR ANOTHER GRANDBABY VISIT !



Here's our daughter Theresa with her husband Matt and baby Elijah.

One year old on October 16th !
Wow... the cutest baby in the world !

Here's Eli with both Grandmothers.

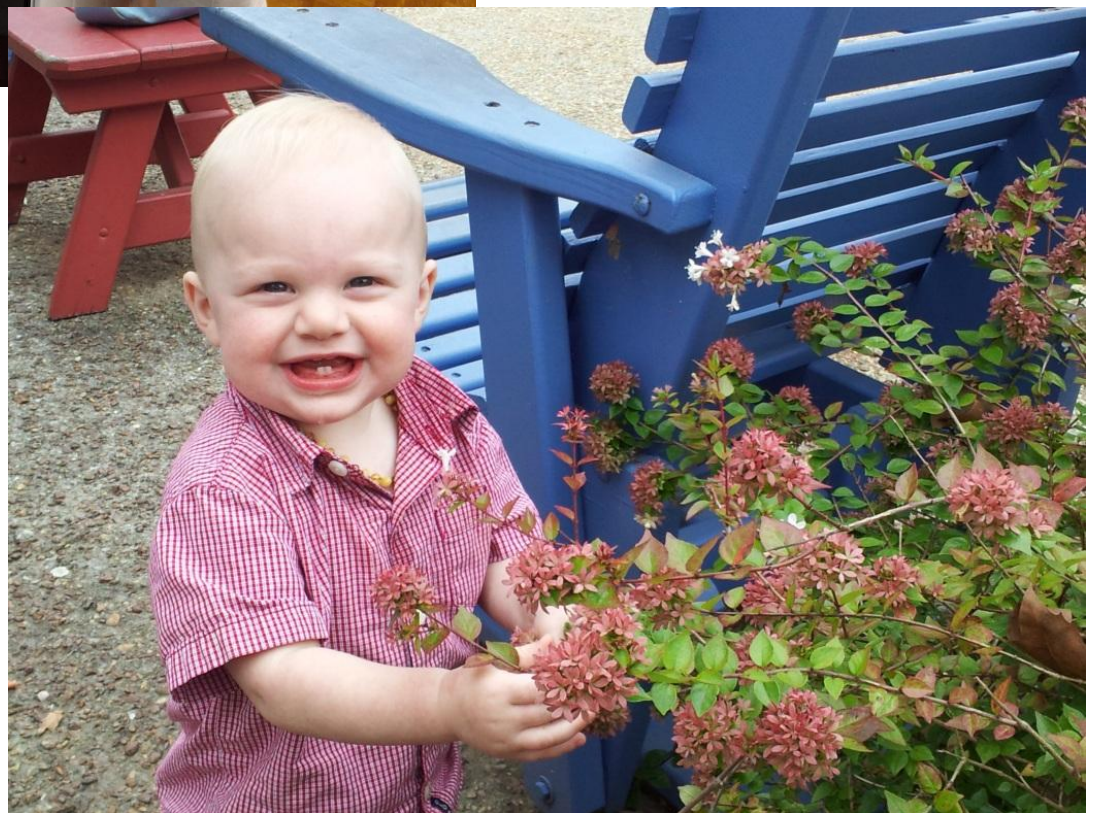


Hmmm... having a grandbaby seems to have affected our cruising plans. More on that later.



Is someone following you ???

I wonder if he'll still be this cute
when he's 31? Probably...

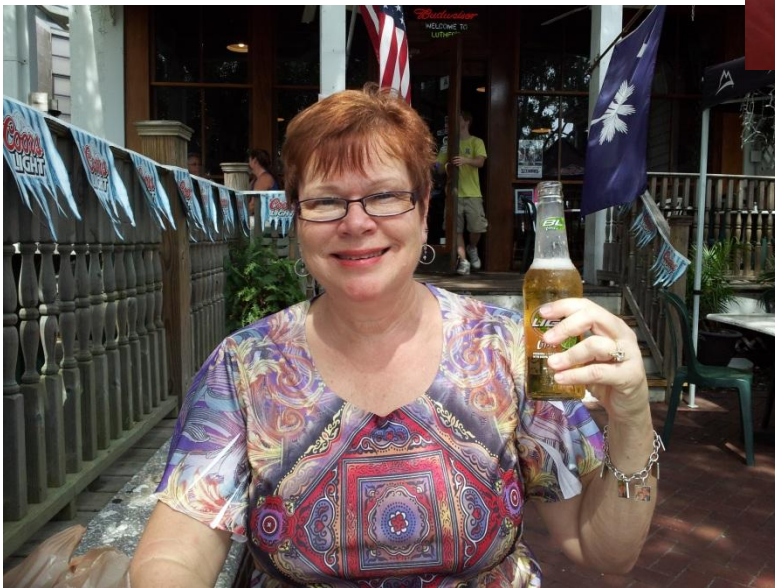




MEANWHILE... we're still floating... still smiling... enjoying a cruising retirement.

Or should I call it a live-aboard retirement?

Regardless... LIFE IS GOOD !!!



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