

# Wintering on the Boat

Plans change. There were several family events taking place over the winter, which precluded “going south” again for the 2012-2013 season. Instead, we would make some visits to Atlanta, take some road trips, and continue to work part-time while we stayed at Port Royal.

This way we could rebuild our savings to return to the Bahamas for the 2013-2014 cruising season. I REALLY LIKED THE BAHAMAS !

I’m not getting too comfortable here, am I ?

By the way... where did I leave my glasses?



There’s always boat maintenance to do. And, it’s always nice when everyone pitches in to help.

Here’s evidence that our resident cat, “Skipper”, appreciates my fresh varnish. She contributed some foot prints and white fur to the project. THAT DARN CAT !



Life goes on as the seasons change. I can't blame the cat for getting her fur on the varnish. When I get my haircut, I leave a lot of "fuzz" on the boat and the dock too!

Why have a haircut on the dock?  
WE'RE CRUISERS AND  
WE'RE CHEAP !!!

The logistics of a simple task like a haircut are "different" when you're living on a boat.

Especially while cruising, often you're on foot to arrange basic services, like grocery shopping and laundry. We try to be as self-sufficient as possible. You make a stop at a marina that has a courtesy car, and it's a BIG DEAL. Because then... YOU CAN GO TO WAL-MART! HA! So, haircuts on the dock are part of the life style. I've offered to cut Mary's hair... but that's another story. (Smile!).

You can still have hobbies while living on a boat. Mary has her sewing machine aboard and sets it up in the main salon to work on quilts.

(When she does this, I have to find something on the OUTSIDE of the boat to work on!).

Here's her latest creation, a quilt she made for our daughter-in-law Laura. A work of art!







Since we're not cruising on our little boat, it's time to have a get-away on a big boat. We take a winter break with Princess Cruise Lines, to the eastern Caribbean.

Mary enjoys the sights and the exotic shopping.



Meanwhile, I take photos of marinas and anchorages, and check the prevailing winds. Some things just become second nature.

Sometimes I buy the charts, thinking and dreaming ahead. Ha!



Back in Port Royal again, and it's the Holiday Season. Thanksgiving has passed, with a big feed at the marina.

December is here. Our good friend and long term cruiser Fred Lux is on his way south for the winter on "Casa Mare". Hey Fred! Fair winds my friend! Have fun in the Bahamas!



December brings family guests! Our grandson Elijah is here for a visit!

And, he brought along his parents Matt & Theresa. Welcome to our boat!



Hey... it's MY turn to hold him!  
( I'm smiling... But he's not so sure... )





We decorate "Gideon" for the Christmas season. Yes, Jesus is the Reason!



We enter our floating home in the lighted boat parade past downtown Beaufort, SC.

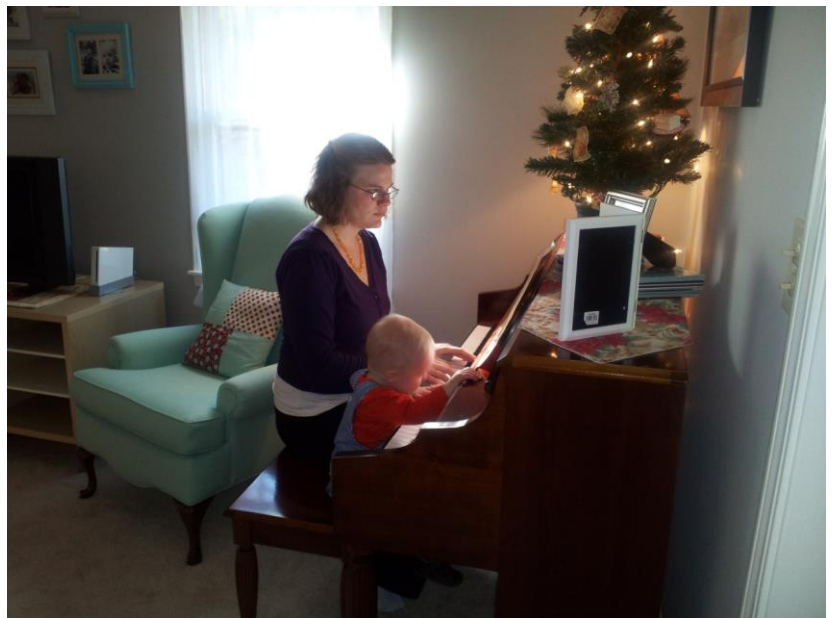
We have special guests aboard! Theresa and Matt dress up as Mary and Joseph on the front deck, with 1 year old Elijah as baby Jesus. We're the only boat with the Holy Family !



For Christmas we make the drive and visit family in Atlanta.

While cruising, we've spent several Christmas holidays away. Two years ago we were in south Florida. Last year we were in the Bahamas.

But, this year we're blessed to be with family. It's a special time.





The marina in Beaufort is quiet in December as the year ends. Some live-aboards are traveling. For those of us here, it's cold enough to discourage dock parties.

Coastal South Carolina is lovely.  
But...Damn! WHY AREN'T  
WE FURTHER SOUTH ???



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