

# A Year of Transition

We have big travel plans for 2013. A visit to family in Florida, and a visit with family friends in Newfoundland. Interesting... for all of these trips, we're planning to travel by car rather than by boat. ( More on this later ).



Meanwhile I stay busy as a TowBoat U.S. Captain. Things are slow in January, until the radio crackles with news of a shrimp boat sunk at the dock in Port Royal.

Hey, a possible salvage opportunity? The boss says take the TowBoat out and get some photos.

There's no certainty as to the cause. But other similar sinkings have been due to rotten hoses.

The owner leaves the boat unattended, with through-hull valves open. The hoses are old enough the rubber rots and cracks from age, and leaks. The bilge pump runs down the battery or burns out trying to keep up with the increasing leak. **LESSON LEARNED:** Close the through-hulls when you leave the boat unattended!

We visit the kids in Atlanta in February. Our daughter Theresa tries the traditional conch horn to welcome to the sunset.

This particular shell is a "trumpet" conch. The shell is ugly, but it has a more mellow tone. (At least, that's what the canny salesman in the Bahamas told me!)





In March, our son John and his wife Laura visit us. Living on a boat means we're on waterfront property. People love to visit!

Here they are with a replica of the "Hunley" submarine in Charleston.

And a visit to the Citadel Museum.



And, steak night at Harold's Country Club. It's an old gas station converted to a restaurant, in Yemassee, South Carolina. For a flat rate, you get a steak that covers the plate!





Mary's friend Amy visits to our boat!

Hurray! It's an excuse to stop work for a day!

Retired? Living on a boat? What work?

The picture shows "blue tape" on the teak trim, for the semi-annual Cetol refresh.

**THERES ALWAYS WORK ON THE BOAT!**



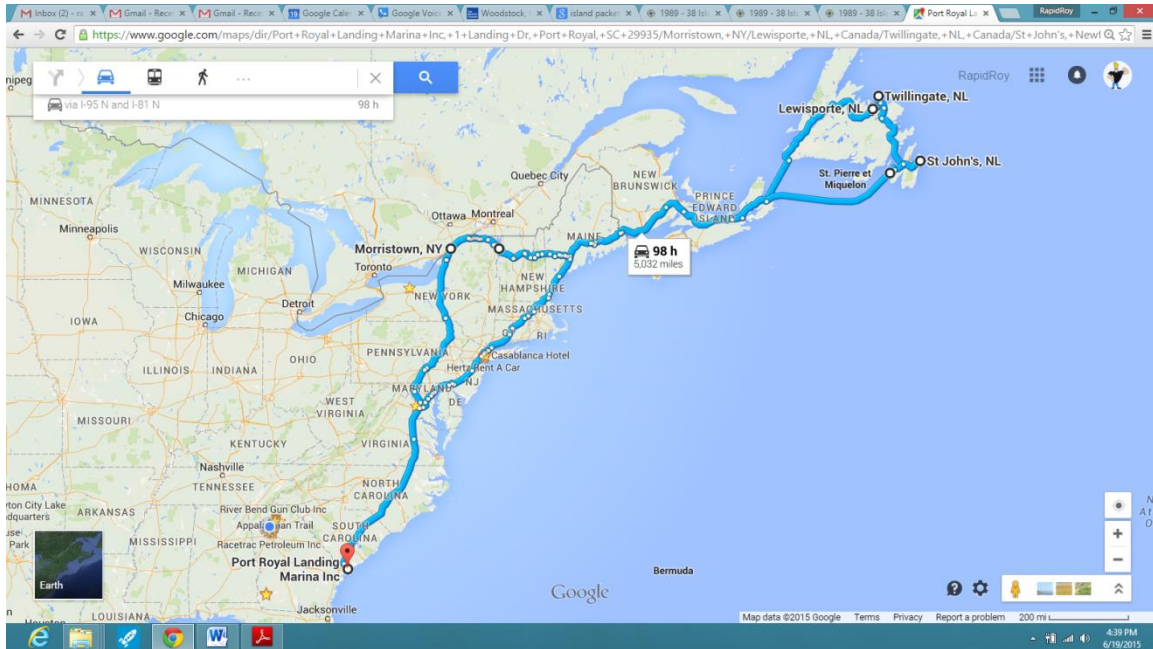
**FAMILY REUNION !!!** Our son Luke and his bride Emma visit from "Across the pond"; they live in Wales, in the U.K. It's a special event for us to see them! Here's a rare photo of **THE ENTIRE FAMILY !!!**





Have you noticed? We're traveling a lot.... but not on the boat ! Hmmm....

This continues in June and July, with a road trip to Mary's ancestral home in upstate New York, and then on to visit friends we know in Newfoundland, Canada. A five thousand mile trip to a beautiful island. ( Gee, I could get the charts! But, we go by car... )



First stop is “Pop’s place” at “The River”. It’s Mary’s dad’s cottage on the Saint Lawrence River. His picture window looks out across the mile wide river to Canada on the other side.



“The Great St. Lawrence River” is a mile wide, and 60 feet deep here. There’s a gentle current, with clear, cold fresh water flowing from the Great Lakes to the ocean.

Cold? Yes, water temps in the low 70’s in July. BRISK! But it’s still great fun in the summer!



Plus, the St. Lawrence is an active ship channel, and “ship watching” is part of the fun of the area.

Here’s the Polsteam “Isa” headed up-river. It’s a Polish merchant ship, enroute from Amsterdam to Duluth Minnesota.

Upstate New York and the Thousand Island area was the playground for industrial barons and millionaires of the late 1800’s and the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The boating heritage of the time is preserved at the Clayton Wooden Boat museum.



Here’s “Pops”, Dick Davis, the patriarch of the clan. He was a machinist mate in the Navy, and a steam engineer at Kodak’s power plant.

He’s next to a steam powered launch. He loves steam!





Mary and I spent a week with family and friends in Morristown. It's a perfect slice of small town America. There were concerts in the park, a Fourth of July parade, and church on Sunday.

This was an extra special time of remembrance, since the family had come together for a memorial and to scatter the ashes of Anne Davis, Mary's mom.

All three of Mary's brothers came, plus our kids from Atlanta. It wasn't a sad time; it was a celebration of life.

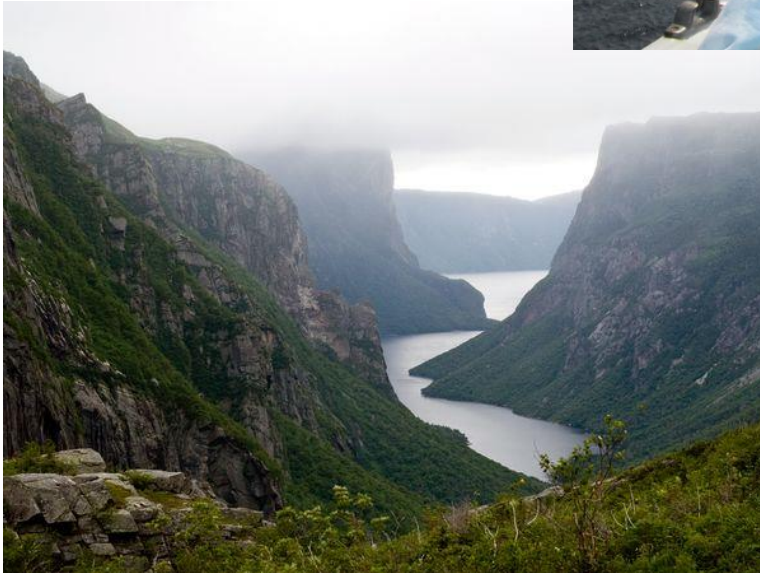


We continue our L-O-N-G driving vacation through New York, Maine, and Nova Scotia. The route takes us along the famous Bay of Fundy, with its extreme 50 foot tides.

Here, the local fishing fleet is tied up at Alma, New Brunswick, waiting for the tide to return. All the dock lines are LONG spring lines!

After arriving by an overnight ferry, we make a circuit of Newfoundland by car, with scenic stops too numerous to cover here.

One stop includes a boat tour of one of the fjords on the west coast.



This is near Gros Morne National Park. There's granite everywhere! It's like Georgia's stone mountain was dropped into the Atlantic!

That's why the nickname for Newfoundland is "The Rock".

A final stop is Saint John's. We toast our safe arrival; me with Guinness, and Mary with Iceberg Beer. Its brewed with 12,000 year old water!



We're doing a lot of traveling... but none of it is by boat! Hmmm.... some long family discussions take place. Living on a boat is a life style choice. But it becomes questionable if the boat doesn't "go" anywhere!

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