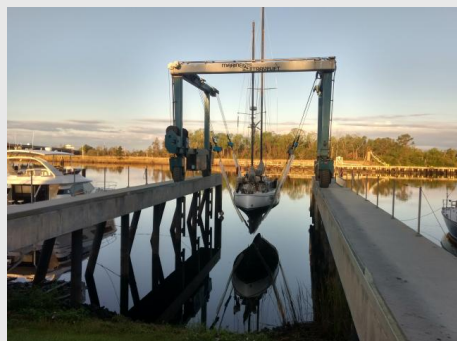




Voyage 2019: Chapter 1

Fall 2018 [Back South]

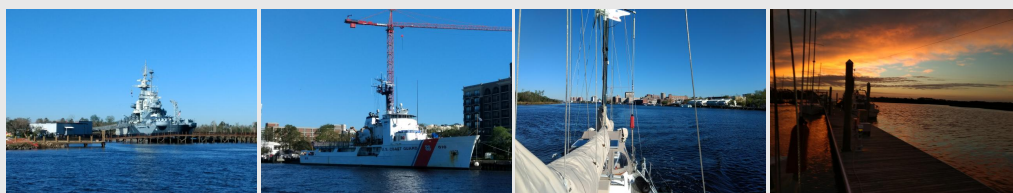
16 Oct 2018, Jule III Splashes, [34 15.21 N/ 077 56.898 W](#)



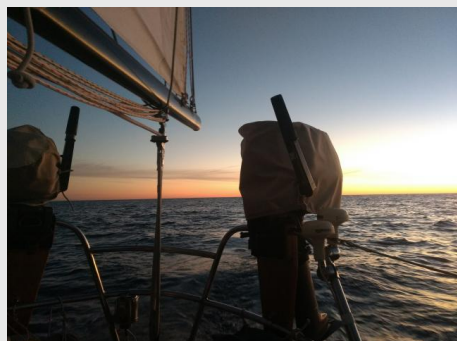
Jule III has been on the hard for three months hiding from hurricanes and getting stuff fixed. Bright and early yesterday, the BBY crew prepared the boat for an early morning launch. She was directed to her temporary slip where her loyal crew and the crew from SV Endaxi re-hoisted the jib, dressed the lines, and confirmed that stuff really worked. Good so far.

29 Oct 2018, Leaving Wilmington for points South, [34 14.988 N/ 077 57.162 W](#)

We left Bennett Brothers two days ago on a beautiful day at the 10:00 bridge opening. Everything is working great. Wilmington is a beautiful town, especially from the Cape Fear River. The battleship, USS North Carolina, guards the Brunswick County coast. It is a sight to see in and out. The other shore hosts the USCG Cutter Dilligence. We'll see you in 6 months. We stopped for two days in Southport waiting on weather and favorable tide.



6 Nov 2018, On to Beaufort SC, [32 23.766 N/ 080 40.656 W](#)



We left South Harbour Village at 0630 on 30 October. It was a bit rolyly at first but once we were out of the influence of the Cape Fear, it flattened. We had light northerly winds so we were doing motor-sailing much of the next 31 hours.

When we pass Parris Island (Marine Corps Recruit Depot) we think we are next to Port Royal marina. But it is still several hours away. Port Royal Sound is really long body of water; especially when we approach. We're not sure what the thing is near the pier; almost like a big gramophone.



We arrived at the marina at 13:30 on the 31st. Rian helped us for a perfect tie up. JW of SV Over Budget came by for a quick hello. Jinny and JW have a home in the marina community and keep their boat on the other side of the face dock. We got a tour of the house and went out to dinner in Port Royal.

Mattie was glad that the noisy engine and sloppy seas were gone. She promptly crashed in her new bed. She only threw up once and made only one other mistake. She and the Admiral do not like nights. The Captain is not too fond of them anymore, either.



Lots of eating and drinking with friends and fellow cruisers. We had lunch two days in a row with Jim and Karen (formally of SV Wanderer II and now of MV Liberty). One day we had lunch at Luther's and the next at a small roadside local eatery. After Luther's, we went to the Dataw boat yard where we saw Liberty. Nice compact trawler! Next day, we headed for Hunting Island campground. Very sad. The old campground has mostly gone from recent hurricanes. We also attended the marina's annual customer appreciation dinner. Very nice but folks left a bit early as it was getting cold.

And then there was the oil cooler. We lost a quart of oil in less than 40 hours. We never lose oil. Lot of detective work indicated that oil was leaking out the oil cooler. Dennis from Dataw Marine came to the rescue. We got the part (easy) and Dennis and his team replaced it (really hard). We really appreciated his fast action on our problem. And yes, we are not losing oil anymore.



10 Nov 2018, On to St Augustine, [29 53.754 N/ 081 18.492 W](#)



We left at 0810 from Port Royal on 7 November heading for St. Augustine. Nice seas with a gentle breeze on our back (abaft our beam). The good news was that we were no longer losing oil. The bad news was the autopilot was acting up, and we just ate another alternator belt. Spares are a good thing. During the early morning hours the next day, an upper level trough was stirring up the atmosphere. Didn't look pretty on the display but most of it passed North of us.

The next morning we saw the thunderheads to our northeast. Glad we missed the mess. We were making good time and we were several hours ahead of schedule. We entered St. Augustine inlet with a fair current of .5 kts. Wow this is not bad (except for the autopilot).



We didn't get our favorite North field mooring ball as the boat ahead of us got it first. Oh well, good to be here. But not for long. We only stayed two nights. We did have time to see Jim and Laurie of SV Kismet and lunch with Al and Sue of SV Galetto but we were on the move.

13 Nov 2018, Next is Vero Beach, [27 39.444 N/ 080 22.26 W](#)

We left St. Augustine at 0711 on the 11th with a full day of foul current but near high tide when we went through Matanzas. Didn't hit Bridge of Lions but got close. No white knuckles this day. We anchored in North Daytona near the twin bridges of Sea Breeze. Great anchorage with entertaining views. Mattie was curious after the engine was turned off.



During evening boat work, Captain Bob got a boo-boo. Old man with old skin on an old boat. He was kinda proud of his stylish bandage of a paper towel held in place with painter's tape.

Next day we left at first light to catch a high tide at Ponce de Leon inlet. On the way to the inlet, we passed a bunch of dredge equipment. No problem at the inlet. Perfect! Only we almost whacked the Musson bridge. Got to practice on my bridge vs. current conditions.



Mosquito Lagoon consists of mangrove islands, spoil islands, and fish camps. Past couple of hurricane seasons has done quite a bit of damage to the islands and especially the fish camps. It was a bit windy going through the Mosquito area and the northern Indian River lagoon.

That evening we chose to anchor in the lee of the Addison Point bridge. Holding is excellent and protection is good from anything North. Next day we continued our adventure past Cocoa and Melbourne with winds blowing 15-20 kts hard on the bow. Again we anchored in the lee of a couple of spoil islands 5 nm South of Melbourne.



Today we make the short hop to Vero Beach. Nice day where the wind calmed considerably. We had to hustle a bit as a storm would approach us in mid afternoon. We made it with time to spare. We were not going to shore, but plans change.

A cruisers dinner was hastily scheduled when folks found out that SV Anania (Tommy Tuesday and Sandy) was heading out tomorrow. Pizza at Nina's on the beach was the place. We called it a Cruiseheimers dinner as most of the folks were participants of that SSB net including Jule.



22 Nov 2018, Back to ILM for a Family Thanksgiving, [27 39.444 N/ 080 22.26 W](#)



We rented a car, secured the boat, asked Peter to watch her, loaded the cat in the car, and we headed for our house in Wilmington NC where our kids and their families were also converging. We spent nearly a week cleaning, cooking, eating, and enjoying the kids and grandkids. We all left early on Thanksgiving Saturday so we could all miss the traffic. Great Thanksgiving!

29 Nov 2018, Posturing for the Crossing, [26 46.11 N/ 080 02.664 W](#)

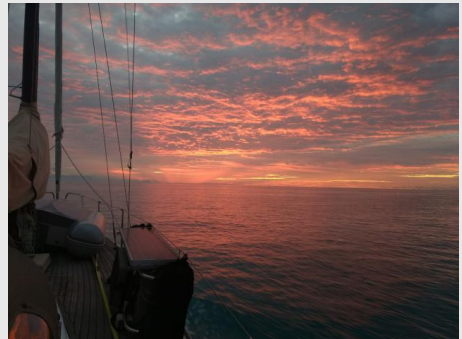
We left Vero for Lake Worth at 10:00 on 27 November and it was cold (43 F). We encountered a brain dead tug boat operator and a texting fisherman near Fort Pierce. Both close encounters without any regard to the Rules. We anchored in the lee of Jensen Beach bridge the first night in quiet conditions. Second day we headed for Lake Worth to wait for a window. We came through the Jupiter inlet area at 1130 and had to fight the three drawbridges, fortunately in light current and wind.



We arrived in Lake Worth at 1430 and quickly found anchorage near the South side of the inlet. The Gulf crossing may be possible tomorrow as the wind should be light out of the NE-SE. However, today the seas are 5-7 feet with moderate NE winds. We will see.

30 Nov 2018, Crossing the Stream, [26 55.248 N/ 077 36.354 W](#)

We had hoped to leave yesterday morning but we feared that the seas in the Stream had not time to subside. We got our courage up by 1500, when we weighed anchor and shot out of the inlet at slack water. Seas were 2-4 ft. (winds were 8-10 kts@ENE). Seas picked up a bit when we entered the stream but settled down as the night progressed. Weather is forecast to be a bit strong out of the South tomorrow so we will tuck in at Crab Cay. This morning's sunrise was pretty red. Is that bad?



3 Dec 2018, On to Green Turtle Cay, [26 45.612 N/ 077 19.47 W](#)



We stayed at Crab Cay for two nights waiting for the wind to settle. We arrived in Black Sound, GTC at 1500 on 2 December but had to wait until today to check-in. So we stayed at Black Sound Marina at our usual (from last year) slip. Good to be here!!!

Today we headed up to Customs with our paperwork and passports in hand. The process takes a bit of time but we were the only one there at 0900. The Customs officer was new (to us). She replaced the one that we had last year. She wished us a happy stay and off we went to hoist the courtesy flag. Our plan is to use Black Sound as home base and go for short hops to nearby cays and spend some time on the other side of the Whale.



15 Dec 2018, GTC: Our Winter Cruising Home, [26 45.63 N/ 077 19.488 W](#)



It is great to be in Black Sound in our same slip as last year. We continue to spoil ourselves with a marina knowing full well when we leave here, we will not be 'doing' marinas. Water, electricity, potties, and laundry; not bad. Lots of cats but not too many dogs. There is Chowder who we introduced last year and now we met Domino and Smiley.

Black Sound borders the settlement of New Plymouth. It is a small community of less than 450 people, rich with tradition, friendly people, and a clean and efficient business sector. We are more isolated than you would think, but we'll talk about that later.





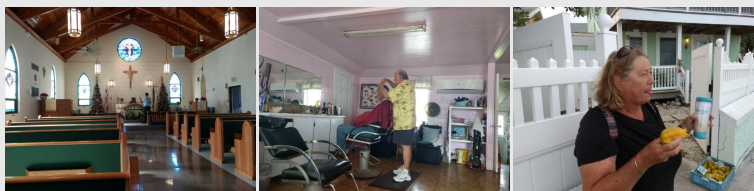
One of our scheduled activities is watching the MV Legacy come to the Government dock every Thursday. It is the primary delivery vehicle for everything that comes to or from Green Turtle. It is an example of very efficient logistics plus it is fun to watch.

Most folks here get around on golf carts though there are cars on the Cay. The narrow roads are best traveled by the carts. They are rugged enough to go on the dirt and rocky roads to lead to the neat beaches. Only catch is that driving protocol is the Commonwealth side of the road.



Traveling around GTC is straightforward in small boats and dinghies. There are public or free docks everywhere. When we are lazy, which is most of the time, we hop in the dinghy to head to the settlement or White Sound. Some will island hop on their dinghies but our engine is too small to make that much fun.

There are 7 restaurants in the settlement, most are very good. There are also a few fancy restaurants up White Sound but we have not checked them all out. We'll be talking about restaurants later during our stay here. We'll also mention some of the ones we like in Marsh Harbour.





Folks here know how to celebrate Christmas! Our first night walking (actually early morning caroling) presented Settlement Point all lit up in its regalia. It was a sight to see! Later we explored the point to see the intricate lighting artwork. It was so much better than last year.

Speaking of morning caroling, there is a long tradition in GTC concerning loud singing and parading with drums booming through all the streets of the settlement. Residents, visitors, and cruisers all join in for the 8 caroling days. The only rub is that it starts at 5 AM. We managed to participate in all but one of the events.



(page-brak 1!)



St. Peter's Anglican Church presented a candlelight Christmas ceremony where all of the church's participated in singing and preaching the Christmas message. The accompanying picture shows St. Peter's women's group singing several songs.

Earlier in the week, the Settlement had a Christmas Tree lighting ceremony. We had a tree, food, and lots of folks for an audience; again residents, visitors, and locals. We had caroling, preaching, and a downpour which almost ruined the musical equipment. Fortunately, it didn't and we were under a tent.



Settlement festivities concluded with a golf cart parade, a children's parade of lights, a great dinner, and a visit from Santa (actually Mrs. Claus) for the kids. Everything was perfect except our picture of the parades (none included).

The cruisers had a couple of celebrations themselves: a Christmas Eve morning breakfast at Green Turtle Club and a Christmas Day potluck at Sundowners (Brian and Catherine of Sundowners also had their own feast for visitors, second home folks, and cruisers on Christmas Eve). Both were well attended. The former celebrated the history of cruisers visiting and participating in the life of the settlement while the later celebrated the camaraderie of our community.



30 Dec 2018, Trip to Manjack Cay, 26 48.978 N/ 077 21.894 W



SV Modoki, SV Old Rosie, and Jule III took off for a mini trip Manjack Cay, which was a 50 minute motor-sail from Black Sound. Jule III was the newbie here while Joe and Yvonne were the expert guides. We had a bit of a problem getting our Bruce to hold in the grass and fine sand but we tweaked our technique for the conditions and all was well.

Modaki took us in their dinghy to explore the creeks and the adjacent shores. We saw rays, turtles, and fish. Everything was great until we got to hiking in the areas of iron stone (moonscape of really sharp rock); kinda scary stuff. We let Modaki go ahead while we played in the water.



The next day, we used two dinghies to continue our adventures. We explored Manjack and Crab Cays. Not so much iron stone but the terrain was a bit of a challenge. Remember we (Jule III folks) are old. Next stop are the trails near the few residences on the south side of the Cay.

There are hiking trails and trails made to be fun A few of the signs are serious such as this one but most are artwork pretty or weird or both. Much of the artwork is left by passing cruisers. We don't know how long it lasts but we are told the gallery of art is growing. We will find out next year, if we don't have any serious hurricanes



Time to head back to the big boat. But wait, look what Yvonne found. A nice sized star fish, alive and well. Once we checked it out, Yvonne placed the big guy back in the water. Next day, we pulled anchor and then we were gone back to GTC.

[31 Dec 2018, Junkanoo at Green Turtle, 26 48.978 N/ 077 21.894 W](#)



It's 1 January 2019 and it time for Junkanoo. "Every New Year's Day a Junkanoo parade displaying breathtaking sights and vibrant sounds fills the historic streets of New Plymouth, Green Turtle Cay, in celebration of a new year". This year the parade starts with a 'jellyfish' collecting donations (picture did not turn out) followed by representatives of local and regional law enforcement.

The crowds are everywhere, including the top of the old jail. This year has perfect weather with good forecasts for the people to get back home by golf cart, ferry, or boat (across the whale to Marsh Harbour and beyond. Due to logistic issues, it rarely starts on time. This year it was only 30 minutes late.



All ages participate in the parade. Some are smaller than the smallest drums, while others have the strength to carry heavy costumes or musical instruments for hours in the sun and heat. It was hot this day with a light breeze and sunny skies.

The younger participants are mostly from the local primary school while the older folks work in the settlement or are back from high school in Marsh or from college in Nassau or elsewhere. This is really an impressive expression of inclusiveness in the community.



The parade takes a brief hiatus at the Government dock to soak in some shade and cool drinks. Ann and Yvonne are seen talking with the lead parade master. He is full of information but they forget to ask him why he carries a green pepper and a tomato on top of his staff. (The great picture of Jimmy McIntosh is from a collection of a local photographer, Ash Gardiner.)



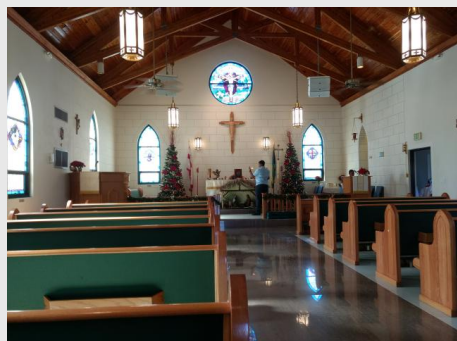


Voyage 2019: Chapter 2

Winter 2019 [Bahamas]

20 Jan 2019, Enjoying New Plymouth and her People, [26 45.576 N / 077 19.44 W](#)

Junkanoo is over and life should be a bit slower. That is good. Here we are in GTC in the first light of 2019. For the next two months we will sit back (except for our walks) and soak in the life and times of GTC and especially the settlement of New Plymouth.



One sad note concerning our visit is that St. Peter's Church is without a priest. The Bishop from Nassau transferred Father Bowes from our parish to Nassau. Problem is they didn't provide this parish with a permanent replacement. We have had temp priests and deacons and they are very good but occasionally we have priest-less Sundays. Sad!

20 Jan 2019, New Plymouth Settlement, [26 45.576 N / 077 19.44 W](#)

New Plymouth is the only village in GTC. It is located on the south side of the Cay between the Sea of Abaco and Settlement Harbour. The commercial district, grocery stores, restaurants, bakeries, churches, government dock, BTC, and residents comprise much of New Plymouth. GTC is an island isolated from the more populous islands to the south due to the Whale passage. Inclement weather can force even the larger freighters to delay their passage through the Whale.



Many of the buildings have historical significance. Some are a bit run down but many others are going through a slow but steady restoration. The picture to the left is the beginning of a new house on the hill between the Harbour and Black Sound. We walk by it every day. Cori and her husband are having it built. Development can be slow due to logistics, manpower, materials, and cost. But it will happen.

Fundraisers are the lifeblood of the settlement. There isn't much Government money to go around and so the New Plymouth folks make up the difference. The image to the right is a picture of a fundraiser at Amy Roberts Primary School a couple weeks after Junkanoo. It was to help fund some of the spring activities of the school. Fundraisers help pay for Christmas activities, parades, assistance to residents in need, and a host of GTC concentric support.



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New Plymouth has a flag football team that is actually quite good. We had the opportunity to watch them play at the football field near Gillam Bay Road. They were playing Marsh Harbour, Man of War, and Hope Town. Our team was winner of the day. Later, they won the regional championship. Good team with great coaching, including Coach Ronale.

(page-break 2)

Kids here play like we used to when we were kids. We always see kids playing basketball, riding bikes, playing other outside games without the aid of electronic doo-dads. Kids go to and participate in church and family celebrations. They, like their parents, are polite and kind. Nice place.



Once in late January we had a significant wind event with winds 25-35 kts. One of the older telephone poles in the settlement fell during the storm. Within an hour, the pole was removed, and the cables were rerouted. Parliament Rd. was closed for less than an hour. New Plymouth has a fire house, an EMS, and trained volunteers to support most emergencies. The Bollo ferries will respond to emergencies at all hours to get those in need to the airport at Treasure Cay.

Transportation on the island is mainly via golf carts and boats (dinghies for us cruisers). There are several public docks in New Plymouth and several more at the 'distant' White Sound. We rent a golf cart a couple of times a trip to site see and explore the beaches. More often, we use our dinghy to check out the island (when weather permits). Traveling off-island usually requires a Bollo ferry ride to Treasure and then a rental car.





We will not be sailing south next year but we will be in GTC by airplane and ferry. We will stay at a friend recommended cottage in New Plymouth. We are going to start and act our age and limit our sailing adventures to above 38 N latitude. Gotta get old someday. Not there yet but we are getting there.



Dorian Update (15 Sep '19): On 1-3 September, the Northern Bahamas was destroyed by a CAT 5+ hurricane with wind gusts in excess of 210 mph. Almost without exception, every building in the Abacos was destroyed or seriously damaged. GTC was blessed in that there was no loss of life or serious injury. Great Abaco Island was not as fortunate but a final number is not yet available.



The picture on the left was taken on Parliament St. in New Plymouth facing towards the Point. The wreckage on the right was a gift shop, called the Treasure Chest, and a hardware store. As of mid September, there is no power or water. Solar powered Reverse osmosis (RO) units will soon be operational in White Sound and the Government dock. The USA (Coast Guard, Navy, Marines, and Air Force); UK (Red Cross, Navy) are either there or are steaming to the Abacos.

The picture to the right is taken at the top of the Hill, where the BTC, Fire House, and school are located. When last we were there, we could see the beauty of New Plymouth. Now, not so much so. The residents are heartbroken but determined to resurrect New Plymouth and GTC. Communications to points outside of GTC are slowly returning. We are hearing more of the horror and determination as the details unfold.



The picture on the left is a fishing vessel that was previously tied up near the Point. Now it is laying on Bay St. The first picture in the gallery is the remains of Sundowners. Strange that the covered deck survived while the building went to the wind. While many of the buildings did not fail completely, others turned into rubble. Several homes had little outward damage, but most everything inside compromised by sea water, mildew, and mold. One of the first deliveries to GTC was lots of bleach.



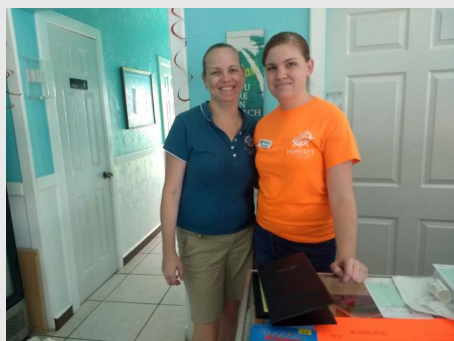
20 Jan 2019, The people in New Plymouth, [26 45.576 N/ 077 19.44 W](#)

In the past two years, we have been very fortunate to meet many of the residents that work and live in New Plymouth. They wave to us when we are walking, offer us rides on their golf carts, and never hesitate to see if they can help. Our first new friend was Mikey, the marina manager of Black Sound Marina, which we called home for two seasons. Mikey helped us in every step of our adjustment to Green Turtle. The picture to the right is Mikey with his son, Carter



Julie is involved in lots of things in New Plymouth: property rentals, cottage renovation, volunteer in fire/EMS operations, and active in St. Peters Anglican church. She is also the mother of Mikey. We see her in the settlement most days.

Chris is a real estate agent and a small scale farmer practicing a form of hydroponics. His vegetables are in high demand by residents and cruisers alike. His 'farm' is on the Atlantic side of Black Sound, right across from our marina. Chris is the father of Mikey.



Sisters Lisa and Heather help operate Harvey's restaurant on Bay Street (the place we eat right after church). Lisa also owns the Treasure Chest, a nice clothing and jewelry store on Parliament St. Lisa is wife of Mikey and the mother of Carter. Heather is always at Harvey's working as a waitress or dishing out ice cream for the folks walking by. Nice people.

Freddy is at the government dock, picking up supplies from the Legacy for Harvey's and his own work. He recently got a pickup truck which will make deliveries a bit easier. The truck is easy to spot with it gold-ish color. No more sneaking around.



Barbara, Cori, and Ash perform the day-to-day operations at the New Plymouth Liquor Store and Cafe. We go there all the time for all of Cori's, Barbara's, Edris' (couldn't get her in this picture) and Dave's special dishes. And then there is Friday's Happy Hour, a popular destination for residents and cruisers alike.

We find Seanna everywhere. The first time was in the Administration building where we wanted to get the Christmas schedule; next was in library; followed as a volunteer at the St. Peter's Thrift Store. This picture was taken during Junkanoo.



Eturpy and Denise are the two shorties of the 2 Shorty's restaurant on Crown St. In addition to visiting them at 2 Shorty's every week, we see both of them at St. Peters nearly every Sunday. Residents and cruisers know the two shorties and love 2 Shorty's. We do too.

Scott and Martha own and operate Sid's Grocery, one of four food stores in New Plymouth. We go to Sid's most of the time, but also use Lowes, and Curry's. We go to Robertha's for bread and ice cream. Scott and Martha have been so helpful in understanding the workings of GTC as it pertains to shipping and the do's and don'ts of going to Marsh Harbour.





Julie is the shipping agent for Dean Shipping who operates the MV Legacy (see our discussion later). She is 'assisted' by Smiley the dog. If you want to send or receive freight, you will meet Julie. It amazed us how detailed and complicated tracking shipments can be. We'll be talking more about Julie and her ship during our Legacy post.

Patricia is everywhere. We met her first at St. Peter's where she was the first to greet us and give us our prayer books. She always greets us with a smile and wave no matter where we are. She is very active at St. Peter's and associated functions. Very nice lady!



Brian and Caroline own Sundowners, a waterside bar and grille. They are there 365 days a year. Brian offers his place to the cruisers to launch potlucks and cruiser holiday outings. They are very active in Abaco's Every Child Counts (ECC) which operates in Marsh Harbour. Drinks are generous and we love their pizza.

Hubert is our barber at New Plymouth. He has been doing most of his adult life in Nassau and GTC. He is not always open due to some medical issues but we were lucky this time. Good, quick and priced right. Plus we get good conversation. Ann was going to go the following week but he was closed. We later heard that some new medical problems may be why he was closed. Hubert is in our prayers!



We didn't know that dominoes could be so loud but the guys that play near Robertha's get into it by smacking the tiles onto the table. Not sure why. The gentleman with the blue hat is Joel Reckley, our Catechist at St. Peters. He has a voice that you would not believe.

Miss Robertha runs the Faith Grocery Store off of Bay St. She specializes in conch fritters, fresh bread, and home made ice cream. She is a very nice lady that treats everybody special. In the gallery is a picture of Edris, the cook from the Liquor Store. We wanted to get a picture of her as she was not working the day we photographed the LS team. Meet Max and Mary Earl, residents on Parliament. They have become fellow Legacy watchers during the vessel's Thursday visits.



(page-break 1)

We can't forget the dogs. We identified only three dogs that walk the streets of New Plymouth. They are Chowder, Smiley, and Domino. Chowder and Smiley are daily sightings. We only saw Domino during the early morning caroling. They are also pictured in the Gallery below.



[20 Jan 2019, Restaurants of New Plymouth, 26 45.576 N/ 077 19.44 W](#)

Over the last two seasons, we have visited all of the restaurants in New Plymouth except Papa Pete's and Pineapples. Pictures of these eateries are illustrated in the gallery below. dd

The Plymouth Rock Liquors and Cafe is our most frequented place as they serve all meals, have many specials, sponsor a Friday Happy Hour, and they have great chicken souse (Tuesday and Saturday). Great soups also.

Harvey's is our place to go on Sundays after church (great specials every day) and Monday for their pizza and wings night. They also have great ice cream. You can eat indoors or sit on the picnic tables on the beach.

2 Shorty's is the place for tasty, fast, and inexpensive. They offer great specials on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Though it is often used for carry-out, it has two covered picnic tables for those of us who like to eat in-house.

Sundowners is located on the shores of Sea of Abaco. It is a bar with tasty snacks, sandwiches, and pizza. We go there on Wednesday for our pizza and gin fixes.

Miss Emily's, Wrecking Tree, and McIntosh are favorites of the tourists and the White Sounder cruisers. We like them all and they are near each other on Hill and Parliament near Brooklyn. McIntosh and the Liquor Store are the only restaurants that offer breakfast. Miss Emily has great grouper bites and the Wrecking Tree is noted for their chicken.



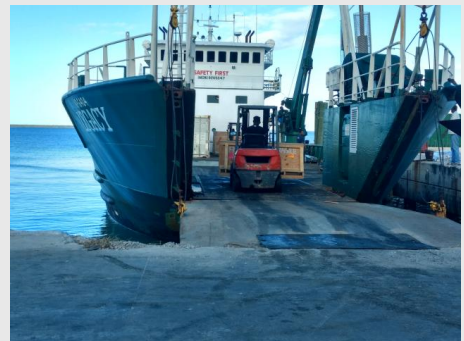


5 Feb 2019, MV Legacy in New Plymouth, [26 45.576 N/ 077 19.44 W](#)



The arrival of the MV Legacy is always of interest to us. We see what comes in the settlement each week; food for the groceries and restaurants, building equipment for hardware stores and homeowners, golf carts, cars, and lots of other stuff. Each week it is different.

Legacy has a permanent crane and two fork lifts that move the cargo from and to the boat. The fork lift drivers are magic. Their machines 'dance' on the deck, cargo hold, and dock without mishap. We have only missed one Legacy arrival these two seasons and never witnessed an accident.



Captain Rick is responsible for navigation, safety, and operations of the Legacy. We see the captain every Thursday, but until recently we didn't know his role. The Legacy's route starts at Nassau, heads to Marsh Harbour, then GTC after stops in Great Guana. We often track Legacy's progress on the MarineTraffic app and share the information to the folks here.

Agent Julie and crew member Fargo are GTC members of the Legacy team that perform the administrative and logistics support for the Legacy at GTC. Julie is responsible for the accountability for each package or pallet. Fargo interfaces with fellow crew to position the unloaded cargo where the customers can pick it up. One day he brought star fruit for the crew and us observers to enjoy.





We have our place at the Government Dock. We share it all the time. This day we were with cruisers (SV Modaki and MV Bucket List). In the early days we were just lurkers. Now we are interested observers. The experience is engrossing. There is stuff going on everywhere for over two hours. No breaks and no delays.

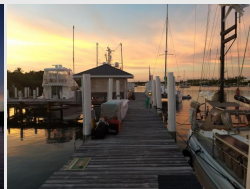


9 Feb 2019, Jule III in Black Sound, [26 45.576 N/ 077 19.44 W](#)

Jule III spent all but 3 days of her Bahamas stay on the south end of the outside of the face dock of Black Sound Marina. We were here last season also for over two months. We had some excitement during a major wind event where a large MV started to drag down on Jule. Heros of the Sound rescued the boat and saved us ...just in the nick of time.



This year's slipholders are great and we had fun times with them during local happy hours. But only one boat, MV Spice, was here last year. We miss last year's gang. Many could not make it due to medical issues. Under Mikey's helm, this is really the place to be. Docks are in great shape, water and electricity are reasonable, bathroom and laundry are best of the Sound.



11 Feb 2019, Why go to Marsh Harbour?, [26 45.576 N/ 077 19.44 W](#)

Here in GTC there are no banks. Picture to the right is where one of the banks was three years ago. Most of the settlements have lost their banks; most have lost their ATMs, and the 'lucky' ones that have ATMs, most don't work. To get cash, you have to go to Marsh Harbour (MHH).



Most take a ferry to Treasure Cay and rent a car or take a cab to MHH. Cost is around \$100 US (or BS). We took the trip several times while we were in GTC. It is a good time to stock up on food and booze, eat at the various restaurants, and get medicine, or clinical help.

The BOLO ferry provides a fantastic service to and from Treasure. They will even pick you up and drop you off at your boat or dock. Round trips cost around \$22. The 0800 and 0900 ferries are the most popular for us Black Sounders. Last ferry leave Treasure at 1830.



We rent our car from R and M as they have car waiting for you when you arrive at Treasure. This day, we were traveling with Yvonne and Joe of SV Modoki so we got a van as we were buying lots of stuff.

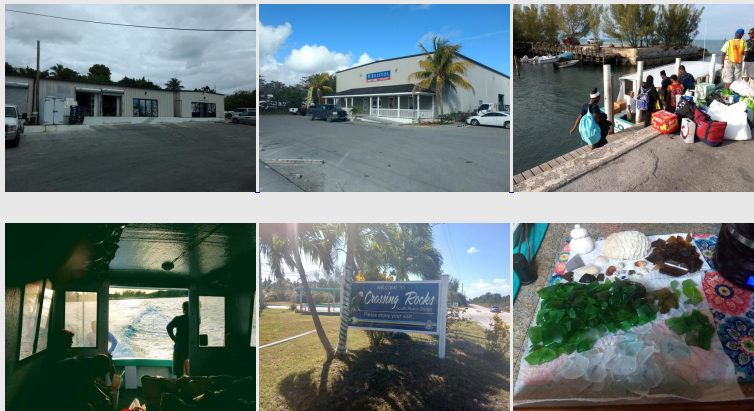
We needed some off the shelf medicine so, of course, we went to the Chemist Shoppe, the MHH's version of a drug store. We always touched base with Bristol's, the largest liquor store in MHH. Grocery stores includes Maxwells, Abaco, Price Right, and Skaggs.





All cruisers and lots of local stop at Destiny's Grill for the best ribs, chicken, pork chops, and stuffed potatoes. We like Walter's, the Bakery, and what used to be Curly tails. Still the restaurants in GTC are better in our opinion.

We headed to Crossing Rocks so that we could go sea glass hunting. CR is about 40 minutes south of MHH and parts of the road are interesting. Ann likes to look, loves to find, and hates her back when it forces her to quit. Bob helps then. 'Pickins' were good (gallery) and Ann's mood (and back) improved.



16 Feb 2019, Us in Green Turtle, 26 45.576 N/ 077 19.44 W

Below are some random snaps of the Jule III crew moving around in GTC. Bob and Ann on Valentine's Day at Harvey's. Us on the picnic table at Harvey's. Us at 2 Shorty's with fellow cruisers. Bob at the dinghy helm. Ann at the helm. Bob's selfie with a wind 'mohawk'.



17 Mar 2019, Bob's Walks, [26 45.576 N/ 077 19.44 W](#)



Capt. Bob likes to walk. Parts of GTC are a bit hilly, especially "the Hill" which is on ... Hill St. My walks start with a circumnavigation of the settlement, usually walking to the point on Bay St. and back to the Hill on Parliament St.

Once past the Hill, I sometimes go to Gilliam Bay, but most times I continue on Loyalist Rd. and head for the beach access to Long Bay, the Cay's 'dump', or places off of White Sound. I average 10,000 steps with my highest is 22,000 when I circumnavigated the Cay." The first picture in the gallery is one of the tightest places where there is no shoulder.



19 Feb 2019, Heading Back to Vero, [27 39.564 N/ 080 22.284 W](#)



We are off! We caught a high tide out of Black Sound at 0630 with calm conditions. Sad to leave but satisfied that we will be back next year. We did our usual ... motor-sailing with light winds abaft the beam and seas less than 2 feet.

We arrived at Great Sale around 1700 where we had the company of five other boats; 2 sail and 3 power. We had some dinner, watched the stars, and went to bed. Next day, we left at sunrise for an anchorage at the edge of the Banks



Wind and seas were unpredictably high but not bad ... except for anchoring on the Banks. Admiral is not happy but we will have to continue directly to Vero. At least we have a pretty sunset.

Arrived at Vero Beach Marina at 1100 and we were lucky to raft up with Bob and Sally near Red 12. No, we didn't put the ding in the daymark. Bob told us that it was his previous ball mate; "quite exciting".



8 Mar 2019, Three weeks in Vero, [27 39.564 N/ 080 22.284 W](#)



We are tied up to Bob and Sally, our cruising buddies on SV Endaxi. Vero on a 'ball' is a great respite from the weather and the weather has been 'iffy' much of the season. Fortunately, there is lots to do here. Cruisers have a 'meet and greet' every Thursday at the pavilion near the dinghy dock. We saw lots of familiar faces there.

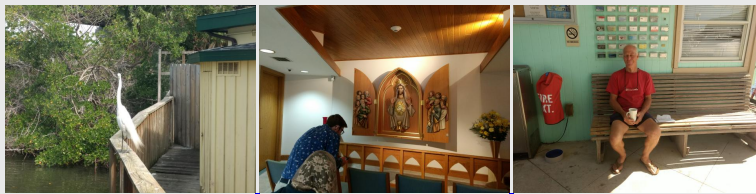
Mattie enjoys 'lurking' in the cockpit to see what she can see. We have taught her about big birds and the need to keep a skyward eye. She learned that lesson early as she was exposed to osprey, hawks, and even a bald eagle.





Mister Peter is our go-to-guy when we need something done; from watching Jule when we need to be away, to climbing the mast, to replacing a really nasty hot water heater. He is not afraid to tell us when he is not comfortable in doing something; like rebuilding a hydraulic pump. Praises to Peter.

Vero is a great place to walk; short walks to the parks; longer walks to the beach; and pretty hefty walks across the bridge to Miracle Mile or the restaurants off of US Route 1. Bob loves to walk through the local neighborhoods with the low hanging live oaks complete with Spanish moss. The road depicted on the right is Date Palm road.



22 Mar 2019, Heading North, [29 53.634 N/ 081 18.594 W](#)



We are off. We left mooring #27 at 0800 without fanfare as most folks had not stirred. Wind was light on aft of the beam. Arrived in Cocoa and dropped the hook. Nothing much to report. Next day, we left and ...what's that? It appears to be a EV (electrical vehicle). Never saw one before.

Next day, we got as far as Titusville. Still not much weather, so it was a slow drive towards Daytona. Ponce/ICW crossing had been dredged so "no problem mon:. We tried to anchor on the South side of the Sea Breeze bridge, but there was not enough room. So we tried the North side with success. Nice view here!



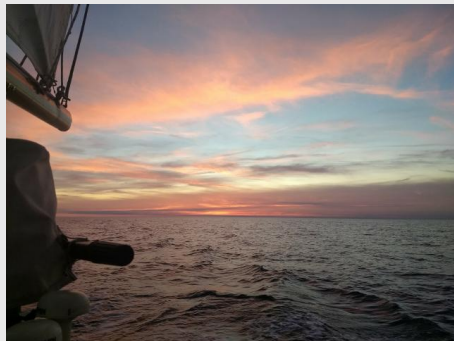


Next day, we head for St. Augustine where we ask for and receive mooring #27 on the North side of the Bridge of Lions bridge. Due to weather, we will spend over two weeks here. A couple of hefty bouts of NE winds (20-30 kts.) blows through the harbor. No dinghy-ing then. We had snacks with Jim and Laurie from SV Kismet, Columbia Restaurant with Tom and Nancy, the Greek/Polish place with Bob and Sally from Endaxi.



23 Mar 2019, Ocean Sailing, 32 17.508 N/ 079 59.058 W

We left St. Augustine at 0730 and took the ICW route towards Fernandina Beach. All was good until we were about 10 nm from the St. John's River. As we rounded a bend, we saw a dredge about 100 yards ahead of us. Long story short, we couldn't tell which side to pass the yellow float; we didn't stop to ask; we hit the underwater dredge pipe. A little while later, the dredge tug came to our rescue. They were nice, we were embarrassed.



Three hours later, we tried to anchor in Alligator Creek in 15' of water. Charts lied (as they often do in this area) and we went aground. We tossed the hook and said we were anchored. Next day, we headed out St. Mary's inlet, and headed North with moderate to light E-SE winds and 3' seas. First night was good but we were tired. Mattie was not happy.

25 Mar 2019, Second Night and ILM, 34 14.508 N/ 077 57.168 W

Second day out Jule saw SE-SW winds with 2-3' seas. We passed near the Charleston sea buoy around 1500 yesterday. Latest GRIBs indicated that winds would be 20 kts out of the South when we were scheduled to enter BBY Marina. We entered the Cape Fear channel at 0800 with light Southerly winds. We passed abeam of Old Baldy at 1000. At 1500, we were in downtown Wilmington.





At 1500, we called BBY Marina to ask for assistance after the 1800 opening (bridge only open before 0600, 1000, 1400, and after 1800). Winds were predicted at 20+ kts with 1 kt opposing current. BBY informed us that no help would be provided. Wow! As we passed Port City Marina, we asked if we could tie up there and could they provide assistance. Yes to both counts. We tied up at 1630. Wind was now blowing 20-30 kts with gale force winds in coastal areas. Thank you Pete of Port City Marina. We are here for 6 weeks then up North some more.



Voyage 2019: Chapter 3

Spring 2019 [Chesapeake Bound]

22 Apr 2019, Family, Wilmington, and Easter, [34 14.412 N/ 077 57.168 W](#)

This week is Spring Break and granddaughter Lilli is coming to visit. We have been lucky to have her most spring breaks since she was 4 years old. We have traditions now and Todd's are proud of their traditions. For instance we like to stay in our pajamas as long as we can. Lilli is really good with that.



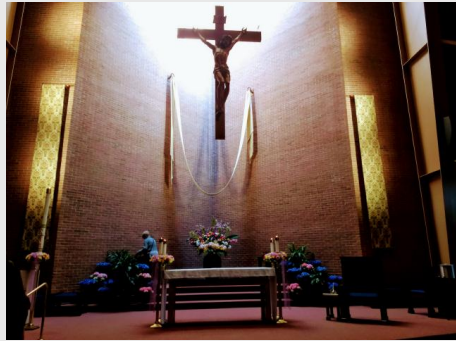
We go to the local park on the Cape Fear River and throw rocks. Once in a while we try to skip rocks but the local rocks don't skip too well. We also have to spend some time on Jule III, just three miles up the River from the rock throwing park. After Jule times, we headed for a local restaurant at our marina (Port City Marina)

Then there is the annual ferry trip to Southport where Lilli and the Admiral feed the seagulls during the 30 minute ride. Mandatory stops include the 'Froggy Store', the Mexican restaurant, and a return trip on the ferry. Not bad. Of course, in the evenings, we get into our PJs, put a DVD in the player, and chill.



It rained a lot during Spring Break. Lilli loved the rain, especially when there were puddles on the driveway. This day, she played for nearly ten minutes. She certainly is her father's daughter. Chris would always make a beeline for puddles. They have the same technique!

Near the end of the week, we drove to Tregembo Zoo, a privately owned full featured zoo. In the past 10 years, we missed our visit only once. As Easter is approaching, Lilli and Ann spent that evening coloring Easter eggs. They will be given to the Easter bunny when we see her tomorrow.



It is Holy Saturday and we are heading to Lilli's house (and Chris' and Christina's also). Ann looks up the Easter bunny, we arrive at the house, then have dinner at the local Pho restaurant (another tradition).

Today is Easter Sunday and the Todds go to their respective churches. Actually, after our Service, we went to Lilli's church for the second service. Both services were beautiful. We had a great Easter prepared by Christina. Afterwards, we had to pack as we were leaving early tomorrow for Newport News to see our grandson, Collin.



We left early today, as we had a short window to see Collin and his friend Jamie as they have to go to work in the afternoon. We arrived a little after 1000, took some pictures in their back yard (facing the James River), checked out his vintage Chevy truck (GPO gave him some wiring tips) and headed to one of their favorite restaurants. Good food and good conversation. It was time for them to go to work and us to head back to Jule. End of Spring Break week. Sad.



18 May 2019, ILM -> Hobucken (RE Mayo), [35 14.682 N/ 076 35.472 W](#)

We were ready to push off the face dock at Port City Marina. Problem was we had a 85 yacht on our bow and a 90' 'sport fish' on our stern with no more than 5' clearance on either side. Pete came with the pump out boat to tow us out. Even with the assistance, we cleared the bow boat by less than 1'. We passed the replica Santa Maria (ES) and headed down the Cape Fear with tonight's destination being Wrightsville.



Weather closed on the outside so we were again forced to the inside. First night was spent in Mile Hammock after another scary but uneventful transit of the New River inlet. The next day we continued through Swansboro and Bogue Sound with sustained winds 20 knots on the quarter. Bumpy trip with a few reminders of what happened during Florence.

Arrived in Morehead City in mid afternoon and decided to continue and anchor in Adams Creek. Captain Bob, got a little confused on where to go (Ann says because he didn't have a plotted route. He replied "old age". We found the path and went on our way. Current gods were not very favorable in the cut but it could have been worse.



Ann loves to look at the colorful and unique houses on the western side of the Canal, especially the one with all the colorful crab floats and Adirondack chairs. Once we left the Canal, we noticed some shoaling in the creek; not bad but we had to focus on the depth gauge. At 1615, we anchored in 7' on the east side of Adams Creek opposite of R"6". Shortly after, Wayne drove over in his runabout and offered us a beer, laundry, and a drive to the stores. We politely declined and had a nice chat learning some of the local gossip.

We left our anchorage around 0700 so that we could transit the Neuse before the wind established itself. We had an enjoyable motor-sail down the Neuse and up the Bay River. As we entered Hobucken Cut, we strained to see if RE Mayo (Fish and Bait) had space on their docks. Of course they did as much of their fleet was deployed in New England. We like this place!





In fact, we and one of the steel scallop boats were on the 1,000' dock. RE Mayo suffered substantial damage from Florence from both wind and flooding. Though the docks still need a little help, the buildings and the facility look good.

Miss Betty checked us in for slip, scallops, and shrimp. She spoke of the 'happenings' since Hurricane Florence. She showed us a picture of the facility during the height of Florence's wrath. Miss Betty introduced us to the 'new' owner, Mr. Carol, and told us all of the improvements since Mr. Roy. We have stopped here every time we have passed through in the last 20 years.



I was wrong. The men's outhouse was completely destroyed: just a hole in the ground. The lady's outhouse is intact but needs a bit of work. This is the only toilet in the area outside of the one in the USCG's secure SAR facility. Don't think they will open their gates for us. I forgot to ask what RE Mayo folks do for a toilet.



[29 May 2019, Hobucken -> EC -> Norfolk, 36 50.772 N/ 076 18.012 W](#)

We only stayed one day in Hobucken as another weather system would catch us in less than two days. Any longer and it will be nasty. We left at first light and 12 hours later arrived at our anchorage in the Little Alligator River. During the day, winds picked up to 15+ kts out of the SW so we sailed (mostly) to the anchorage where we had good protection at the anchorage.





At first light we were off again. By 0800, wind was SW@15-20 kts. Temperature/humidity was high/really high with heat index approaching 100 F. By 0900, we had a reefed jib, no main, and a full mizzen. As usual, the crab pot floats were a pain but we managed to miss them.

As we entered the Pasquotank, the waves moderated to 2' but wind did not settle down until we passed the Dirigible Field. The pots did not go away until the USCG base. By the time we got to the Pelican, wind was light to moderate out of the west. With help from Brian, we tied up on 'our' face dock at 1110. It still was very hot!



We stayed in EC for a week to meet up with friends, load up with fuel, and stay out of the heat. We had lunch with Earl, several chats with Diesel Dave, and a brief visit with Billie. Several folks would be out of town for the extended Memorial Day holiday. It was good seeing the Pelican gang. We have to cross the bridge to get to town which Bob did every day. Some parts of old town are doing OK but the area near the Colonial is vacant of businesses including the Colonial. Nearby, there is new development. Hope it works out.

Weather is great for this gaggle, but not so good for cruisers (unless they have air conditioning - we do). We had several families of geese and one duck family with three chicks. We don't see much of this on our travels South. We rented a car to break the heat and get fuel for our jerry jugs.



Today is Memorial Day. No parades but several civic ceremonies were held around the city. They installed a new monument in the newly created park on the city side of the bridge. However, we have to leave today, so we have to get rid of the car. Of course Enterprise is closed so Bob has to drive there, drop it off, then walk back. He likes to walk. Good thing.

We left around 1100 for Goat Island on the Pasquotank. There are several nice anchorages on the north side of the island. Also, we can make it to South Mill lock of the Dismal Swamp tomorrow for the first opening.



Next morning, we left at 0600 on a lieisurely drive to the Dismal Swamp. We arrived just in time for the 0830 opening. Frank was the lock tender and, as usual, it was a perfect operation. Just two boats this time. That's why we like this locking time.

We visited the Welcome Center by car a couple days earlier. Tara asked us to give her a call and a wave when we passed. She was waiting with a wave and camera. Our picture didn't turn out. Further up the Canal, we passed the cow bridge, a privately owned pull bridge for moving cattle and equipment between the two sides. It has been there for ages. We actually saw it used many years back.



At 1315, we arrived at the Deep Creek bridge. We called and called until 1330. He was cutting the grass and did not here our call. Great lockup, friendly guy who knew how to handle us in windy conditions. Robert, the normal lock master, was on vacation. We were told to keep an eye on our depth sounder as there was some Florence related shoaling. We followed his advise and got to the Norfolk and Southern #7 railroad bridge. Over a half hour wait while two trains passed. It was crowded with up to 20 boats milling around, including us. Forty five minutes later, we were anchored at Hospital Point. Not bad, 9 hours from Goat to Norfolk.



30 May 2019, Norfolk -> Reedville, 37 50.322 N/ 076 16.806 W

We left Hospital Point at 0620 with a fair current and a light SW wind. It will be a 67 nm trip to Reedville. Once we passed Old Point Comfort, we headed North resulting in a foul current (.5 kt). Wind was light but still SW so we hoisted the mizzen and jib for a bit of motor sailing. Progress was not swift. It seemed like we saw Wolf Trap light for hours (actually it was hours). Did I mention the heat has returned with a vengeance (95F/103HI). And the flies; I forgot about the Chesapeake Bay biting flies. Mercy.



We tied up on the face-dock of the Crazy Crab at 1800. We plugged in, turned on the a/c, and continued to swat flies. After a sufficient cool down time, Bob headed out to re-acquaint himself with the town. In older times, we used to visit Reedville quite often.

Not much has changed except the houses in the historic look better than I remembered Tommy's has been changed to the Dockside restaurant; the boat railway is active again, the museum has expanded; and the people are friendlier than ever. Oh, I forgot, someone bought the old bank building and is converting it to a coffee shop. Can't wait to see it.



In 2008, while dinghy-ing around Reedville, we met Dave, a resident sailor. We had a nice chat about the town and the residents. Nearly 11 years later, we met Dave again (long story). He invited us to his house for drinks and conversation. He showed us a video of clips from a passage from Azores to England where he was crew. We hope to see Dave in the fall.

We were to meet a Cruiseheimer neighbor (who lives further up the Great Wicomico) at the Crazy Crab our last night here but weather got in their way. We'll try again in the Fall. Today, we left Reedville at 0740. We always have to take a picture of 'the Stack'. Weather was calm leaving Cockrell Creek. Weather was not quite as miserable as past days, but the flies didn't notice.



02 Jun 2019, Reedville -> Shipwright (Deale), [37 50.322 N/ 076 16.806 W](#)



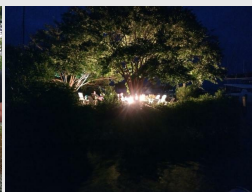
Weather was not quite as hot as we were motor sailing to Solomons Island. There was enough wind for motor sailing and the flies were not as aggressive. We approached the outer Solomon's entrance at 1430. By 1530, we were anchored in Mill Creek at the intersection with St. John's creek (our usual place). Our family of ospreys greeted us with a new batch of chicks.

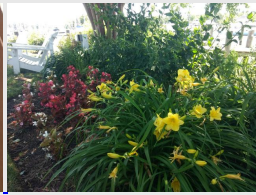
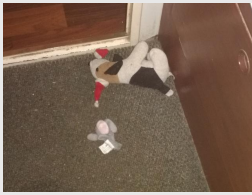
We left Mill Creek at 0600 with the plans for a leisurely sail to Shipwright. All sails up (a rare sight) as we entered the Chesapeake not near the LPG platform. There was actually a ship berthed on the platform. Nothing unusual except we were excited about home porting Jule III in Herring Bay again.



We arrived at Herring #1 at 1230 today. Scotty was there to pick up our lines on F6, and we very happy to be here. The marina looked much better than we remember (because it is), many of our old marina mates were still there as well as folks we met time in the Abacos. Good to be home!

Our home port makes it easy both our Vienna and Richmond families. After our arrival on 2 June, we went to the annual Shipwright pig barbecue (1.e., pig pickin), poolside happy hours, a few visits to Vienna, and going to a new church in Owensville. We will leave Jule III on 17 June for roughly three months. See you then.







Voyage 2019: Chapter 4

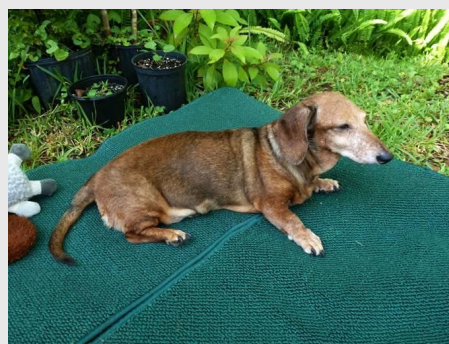
Summer 2019 [North]

06 Jul 2019, Family Vacation, [25 55.074 N/ 081 43.704 W](#)



Family time at Marco Island FL. Jule III is taking it easy on the Chesapeake (Shipwright Harbor marina). We left Wilmington (in Ann's Sorento) on 28 June heading to Marco via Leesburg FL where we spent the night after visiting Bob, Barb (previously of SV Barbobasea), and Rudder (the sailing dog). Had a great time where we also shared our ailments, and talked families.

Next stop was Orlando to see our long time friends, Harry and Sheila with our goddaughter Stephanie. We also met up with our old buddy Conrad, the couch dachshund. Conrad was a little under the weather. Age and disease is catching up with him. We subsequently heard that Conrad had passed. Sad times!



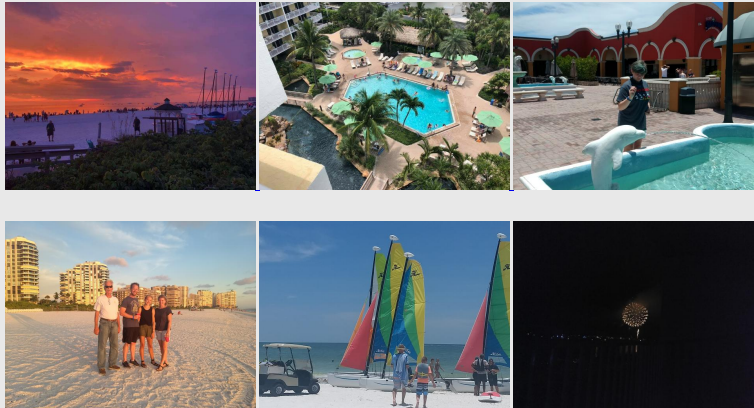
We arrived at Marco around 1530. We were traveling light so it did not take long to get to unit 705 (end unit on North Building). Chris, family, and friends were already in unit 706. Rob and family came to our unit about 1600. Kids got pizza while we got healthy stuff.

We always get beach chairs from Dave. We have been doing that for over 20 years. We can't break the habit. We have free access to the Hobie cats, paddle boards, kayaks, and other beach toys. Capt. Bob gave Hobie rides to all the grandkids (except Collin 'cause he wasn't there and we sure missed him).





Then there was the ride on the RV Dolphin Explorer where family and our closest 25 neighbors enjoyed the dolphin life around the north side of Marco Island. This was our third trip on the "Explorer". Chris, the master of Selfies, took the picture of us.



12 Jul 2019, Disney Cruise with Lilli, [25 04.896 N/ 077 20.478 W](#)



We had a cruise we had to 'use or lose' because of Hurricane Florence. So the families planned for a cruise between grandparents and Miss Lilli on the DCL Dream. This is a 5 day cruise to the Bahamas. Lilli has instructed us that this would be a low key trip with lots of pajamas, no shoreside stuff, and no swimming. She and Gma held strong; GPo went on his walks.

Our room, #5036, was an extended veranda equipped room on the port side of the MV Dream. We posted some of Lilli's artwork on the door so GPo could find the room and folks would admire her art! Yasmine liked it!





We were given an early dinner time slot which is what we wanted. Our wait staff was great. The meals were good, but we found the meals better on the smaller Disney vessels. The staff on the boat are always working. They start around 0500 and on some days do not finish until after midnight.

This was Lilli's lair. Her couch was always deployed as a bed and it was guarded by Stitch, her DVD player, and her iPad. She also hijacked the TV and directed it so only she could see it. We did leave the room to see movies and short plays. GPo never got the other two to actually walk on the exercise deck.



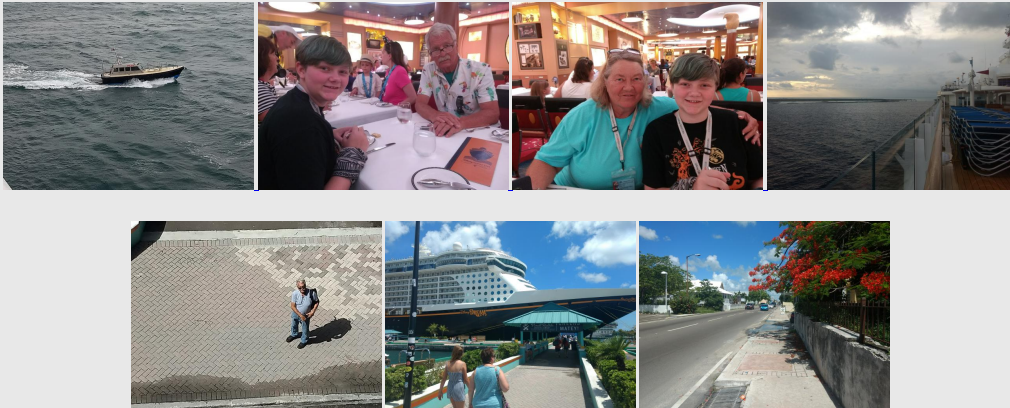
Lilli loved wandering around the ship with us. She especially loved the stores (so did GMa). Lilli and GPo loved to play "Midship Detective" until GPO won one too many matches. Overall we all had a great time. We stopped in three ports: Castaway Cay, Nassau, another Castaway Cay, and 24 hours heading back to Canaveral via the backside of the Abacos.

While in Nassau, I took a walk to Potters Cay, the regional commercial port. Guess what I saw? The MV Legacy was tied up at her homeport, getting ready to head for Guana and Green Turtle Cay. I was hoping to see her here. The view was not great, but it was her. Ige-break 1!)t was worth the hot 4 mile walk; almost 10,000 steps.

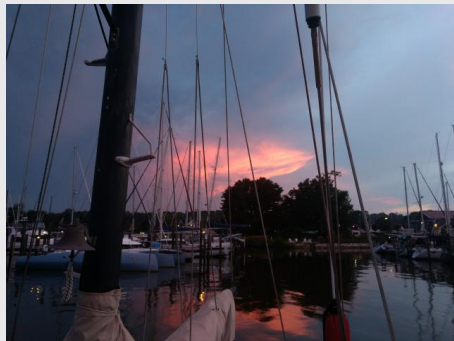


Almost time to leave the Dream. One of Lilli's favorite people was Yasmine, our room steward. She liked all of the 'bed pets' she made with blankets and towels. She was very helpful throughout our trip. After our goodbyes, we had breakfast, then went through customs, got our car and left; all in less than an hour. Great vacations with our granddaughter, Lilli.

We headed for a motel in Cocoa to wait for Lilli's mom for a couple days. The Days Inn was very nice, inexpensive, full of friendly people, and a great swimming pool. Lilli got her water wings back and spent most of the time in the pool. She made GPO go swimming (sort of). After two days, we packed up, took Lilli to her mom's hotel, and we headed back to Wilmington. BTW, she won that checkers match (fair and square) at the Cracker Barrel in Titusville.



[4 Aug 2019, A Bit of a Road Trip, 41 44.478 N/ 070 38.952 W](#)



We are heading to Atlantic Canada by car instead of boat. Capt. Bob has yet another medical issue, atrial flutter, which we will talk about later. We left on 2 August from Jule III's homeport in Deale Bay at 0900 and headed for Plymouth MA. We (Bob, Ann, and Mattie Kay) had a tough traffic day through all of Connecticut. Still, it only took 10 hours to drive.

Our mission on Saturday was to reacquaint ourselves with Onset and some of the friendly folks there. Our first stop was Point Independence Yacht Club (PIYC) where we spent many days on previous cruises). There we found Barry and Glenn, the dock master, and former assistant dock master. They were so helpful and supportive during Ann's leg operation when we were there on Jule.





We visited many places in Onset, but it is now time to get ready for the next leg to New Brunswick. But wait! Bob's atrial flutter flared up with very high blood pressure. We agreed that this was a show stopper as the flare up could mean some bad things. So we canceled our ferry trips, motels, and airB&B's. The next day we started the return trip. Sad!

12 Aug 2019, Back Home, 38 46.59 N/ 076 33.792 W

Arrived in Shipwright Harbor last week. Heading to ILM to meet up with doctors. Let you know how it goes... Bob had his brain MRI-ed to confirm that had fully healed from an old hemorrhage, took blood thinners to minimize clots, had a ablation procedure on his heart, and certified good as new. Ann had an MRI on her back to find the source(s) of pain. She had a series of ablations to minimize the pain. They worked mostly but still some problems. Still working the issue.

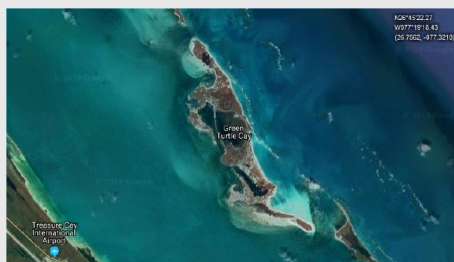




Voyage 2019: Chapter 5

Fall 2009 [Somewhere]

2 Sep 2019, Green Turtle Cay and Abaco, [38 46.5 N/ 076 33.792 W](#)



On 2 September 2019, Hurricane Dorian, a Category 5+ storm struck the Abacos and stalled near Green Turtle Cay (GTC). The destruction was unimaginable. The satellite imagery of GTC changed abruptly from lush green vegetation to a deathly brown. GTC was spared loss of life or injury. But the island was crippled where virtually every structure was uninhabitable; power, water, and communications would not come back until December; and the people suffered. Their faith in God, their neighbors, and their friends are bringing the people back from the brink.

The contributions were immediate; money from Internet sources, evacuation by USCG, private pilots, commercial vessels; NGOs and volunteers bringing material and labor; and many, many humanitarian agencies such as Samaritans Purse, World Central Kitchen (Chef Andre), Team MV Adventure, and private boaters doing what they can. God Bless Them All!



We pray for the people, help where we can, and remind our neighbors about the catastrophe in the Abacos and Grand Bahamas. We had hoped to fly there in January but logistics on the Island makes that impossible. It will become easier to talk to our friends once power and communications are restored on GTC.

9 Sep 2019, Visiting Family in Quebec, [38 46.5 N/ 076 33.792 W](#)

Bob rescheduled his family visit to his brother in Quebec. Ann could not come as she had doctor stuff scheduled. Mattie was busy also. Surprisingly, the flights were good though full but relatively short. I was greeted at Ottawa's (YOW) International Airport by Richard and his significant, Alison. We spent much of the time driving the hills and valleys of the Gatineau area of Quebec. Beautiful countryside and friendly people.





We spent much of one day touring several stables that were homes to Alison's 3 horses. I am a dummy when it comes to horses, but she was patient helping me understand the different aspects of stable life. I completed the visit with dinner at a local restaurant with the family which included Clemont (son), Donna (daughter), three of her children, and Alison's mom. Wonderful time. Next caught the flights back where the lovely Admiral picked me up. Good trip!



17 Sep 2019, The 'Critter' and Octoberfest at Shipwright Harbor, 38 46.5 N/ 076 33.792 W

In July, we were told to prepare for a fifth grand-baby. The big surprise is that he/she was 26 weeks in the 'oven'. The 'Critter' was born on 15 September 2019. We found out that the Critter was a boy with a name of Logan Samuel. The mystery is over! We could not get there for the birth as Ann was having a back operation.



We spent the next several days with Logan and the family. There were no complications so we all headed for the homestead on the 18th. Baby and family were all tucked in so we felt like Captains Dunsel and decided to head for the boat for the Octoberfest.

We arrived the morning of the festivities at Shipwright. We opened Jule III, aired it out a bit, tossed the cat aboard and socialized with the folks lurking around in the early afternoon. Weather was great but were getting hungry. Ann has looking over Vic's and Bo's shoulders hoping for an early delight.



The crabs were out early. Ann was happy. Bob was not a crab fan but there was lots to eat and drink. Did we say that this is a wonderful place with wonderful people. We will renew our slip next year even though we will not be there much.

(page-break 2)



9 Dec 2019, WRCC Picnic, Halloween, and Cruising Visitors, 38 46.5 N/ 076 33.792 W

The Waterway Radio and Cruising Club (WRCC) is holding their annual picnic at a KOA in New Bern North Carolina this year, thanks to Dick and Judy Giddings. Though we have been members for over 15 years, this will only be our second picnic. Shame on us. As our RV was destroyed during Hurricane Florence, we chose a cabin at the KOA. It was a good choice. Even Mattie liked it.



(page-break 1)



The WRCC meeting and picnic was held on Thursday. There was a small flea market before the formal meeting. We met Jeanie (a major player in the organization) for the first time. Of course our friends Dick and Judy were there as cruising buddies Tom and Sandy on SV Anania. We met many old time members and we benefited by our conversations. Good times.

And now Halloween. Ann loves to be at our second home for Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Before our cruising life, we lived in second growth forest in the middle of Northern Virginia. Our magnificent oaks were over 160 years old in 2000. Great place to live but without any Halloween visitors. We missed that. Cruising allowed us to occasionally participate in Halloween in distant ports, but this year is one of the few times in the recent past that we enjoyed Halloween on land.



Cruising friends came through on their way South as they have in years past when we were in ILM. Sandy and John, formally of SV Sandy's Way (lost in GTC during Dorian) spent several days with us. We had a great time catching up. They were heading south in their RV looking for a new 'Sandy's Way'. They are currently in Central Florida looking for her.

Jim and Karen, formally of SV Wanderer II, now of MV Liberty, were steaming from the York River to Beaufort SC. to escape the cold and continue to work on to make her a proper vessel. They are more skilled than us in these matters so it should be perfect. We met them on the sea twice in 2000, first on the Albermarle Sound on our first leg of our first passage South, and the second at the Herb River in Georgia. It would be several more years later that we actually would meet face to face. A lifelong bond ensued!



Chris, Christina, Lilli, and the Critter came to ILM for Thanksgiving. We were excited to see our Vienna family but sad that Rob, Anne, Emily, and Laurin (Richmond clan) could not make it. It was a peaceful and rewarding time for us. Things were changing but this was a pause in the change. Lilli was our 'mate' and the Critter would one day be our swab.

A picture of interest shows a very proper Bob with his swab with a very uncharacteristic smile (in last gallery). One can scan all of the pictures of Capt. Bob and scarcely see a smile as broad as this. Bob was surprised of the smile as he could never smile for the camera, just like his father. Sneaky Christina snapped this picture as he was distracted elsewhere. Good going, sneaky Christina! Thank you. A very good close to a good Thanksgiving celebration.





9 Dec 2019, Christmas Time, [38 46.5 N/ 076 33.792 W](#)



Christmas is very special to us. Cruising often separated us from family during this special time. This year and following years we dedicated our time to family during Christmas. Logistics is an obstacle again and we find their time is a precious commodity. This picture was taken at the Vienna home around 2005. It was the beginning of a White Christmas. We will never forget those times.

Ann is a Christmas lover as is Bob, but Bob is lazy. While cruising, Ann insists on lots of Christmas lights onboard. Bob was a power worrier. We compromised and got along great. We have spent 45 years of Christmas's together. They were all happy, holy, loving. We are praying that we have at least five more together. Mattie Kay hopes we have lots more. In the gallery, are some pictures of this year's Christmas with our kids and grandkids.

