

Voyage 2020: Chapter 1

Winter 2020 [A Quick Land Voyage]

[2 Jan 2020, New Year in Green Turtle Cay, 34 5.959 N/ 77 55.088 W](#)



Green Turtle Cay celebrated Junkanoo and New Year's yesterday with a parade and fireworks. The parade was impressive, especially as the residents have suffered so much due to Dorian. We were scheduled to be in an apartment in New Plymouth by now, but Dorian had other ideas. We are in Wilmington preparing for our 2020 trips.

[17 Jan 2020, Land Voyage: Beaufort SC, 32 26.184 N/ 080 40.128 W](#)

Left ILM on 16 January and headed for Beaufort SC to visit fellow cruisers. Our First stop was a visit with Jim and Karen, formally of SV Wanderer II, now on MV Liberty (picture to right). We have been cruising with them for several seasons, most in the New England area. We chatted about younger days, shared doctor experiences, and where to meet in New England this summer. Of course, dinner was a must-do at the restaurant at the Lady's island Marina.



Next day, we headed to the housing community adjacent to Port Royal Marina to say 'hi' to Jinny and JW who have SV Over Budget homeported at the marina. We cruised with them several times in Rhode Island and Nova Scotia. They have delayed their cruising for the last several years to establish a business in a bed and breakfast venture. We chatted about old times and then went for lunch at the Port Royal waterfront. We had cat and bags packed and left from the restaurant to our motel in Hinesville, GA

We arrived at the La Quinta in Hinesville yesterday evening. We unpacked the car and cat and settled down to a restful evening. Today, we got up at respectable hour and got ready for Frankie's and Casey's wedding. Frankie is the son of our long time friends and neighbors, Alison and Frank. Beautiful wedding; beautiful people. But we cannot doddle. We have to pack and be ready to check into Ocala's La Quinta by 1000 tomorrow. It gets busier and busier as we head further south.



21 Jan 2020, Visiting in Ocala and Leesburg (FL), 29 45.966 N/ 082 48.09 W



We arrived in Ocala and checked into La Quinta (all LQs accept pets), tucked Mattie into her new room, and headed off to see Cori from Green Turtle Cay. Cori was the first one we met in New Plymouth as she fed us breakfast at NP Liquor Store and Cafe. She is in Florida with her two sons, staying at a friends house. They are staying until their house in GTC is habitable. We took Cori to Harry's, a great local pub in Ocala. We talked a little about the destruction of Green Turtle and heard stories of the heroism of the local residents and the charity of all the volunteers, NGOs, and assistance from the USCG, British Navy, and others. It was great seeing her and we promised we would see her in GTC next January.

Yesterday, we saw Bob and Barbara ,formally of SV Barbobasea at their house in Leesburg. We've known them for nearly 20 years but only cruised with them once. Believe it or not, they are older than us. Medical challenges are forcing them to move up north to live (independently) near their families. We chatted about good old days, aches and pains, the future, and where to eat. We picked a Texas Road house in the Town Center of one of the Villages. On our return to their house, Barb gave us a ton of sea shells and beans that she collected over the years. We told them "we would have to change our future Land Voyages to include upper New York state". And we will.



Today, we got up kinda early as we are to meet with my oldest friend, Harry Strunz and his wife Sheila, in Orlando. Harry and I met at the St. James Catholic school playground in 1959. I believe I was 'getting fussed at' by Sister Someone for something. He wanted to be sailboat captain and I wanted to be a scientist. Guess fate got us mixed up. We arrived at their house at 1030 where we got a tour of his very botanical back yard. After briefing each other on family status, we decided to head for the Columbia (Cuban) restaurant. There we discussed the careers of their two children, Stephanie and Eric. We had to leave after lunch for we had to check into our next La Quinta in Brandon, FL.

24 Jan 2020, More visiting in West Central Florida, 29 45.966 N/ 082 48.09 W

Arrived at La Quinta/Brandon FL yesterday. Unpacked luggage and Mattie found her comfy place. Nice motel with nice staff. Today, we started with a nice hot breakfast in the lobby area, some TV, then Land o' Lakes to visit old colleagues and friends. We arrived at David's home outside of Land o' Lakes and were introduced to Susan, a Canadian friend of David's. Bob's company had its first contract with David's organization. Susan is a neighbor who hails from Ontario Canada. After the normal chit-chat, we headed for lunch at one of the local eateries near his house. Jim joined us for lunch. The three of them are avid golfers. However, we talked a bit about our old work, where we were, and where we were going. I always have admired David even when he fussed about me being late. Needless to say we were not late that day.



It's now a new day, and we are heading for Sunset Beach to visit Joanne and Frank, formally of SV Fantasy Island. We had bumped into them many, many times from 2000-2010 along the ICW. We try to visit them whenever we in the area. Today, we saw their new (to them) home, snuggled on a large pond. We had lunch there fixed by Miss Joanne. Then Frank drove us to see the community, including club houses, swimming pools, hobby shops, and an almost endless crafts. Good seeing them and will see them next year.



It's now a new day again and we are heading for Palm Harbour to visit Al and Linda on MV Alynda. Their home is in Montreal Canada but spend the cold months on their boat. We met them last year in Green Turtle Cay where we were marina mates. They are so likeable and easy to talk to. We took a ferry ride to an exclusive island with a fancy restaurant opened to the public. It was a great feast and they paid. Very nice people. Maybe we will have chance to see them when we are up New Brunswick way. Now we have go. Tomorrow we will head for La Quinta/Fort Pierce.



28 Jan 2020, Last Stop: Fort Pierce, 27 26.604 N/ 080 23.016 W



We are at La Quinta/Fort Pierce and frankly we learned that it was the worst La Quinta we have ever stayed. Once we got to check-in, we unpacked the luggage and the cat, and headed West Palm Beach, to meet up with Heather. Heather lives in Green Turtle Cay and is here to collect construction and rebuild equipment, lease a container, and have it shipped to GTC. Impressive young lady. We went to Cracker Barrel for lunch (Bob's idea) and yes, we had a great time. We can't wait to see her and her family at GTC next January!

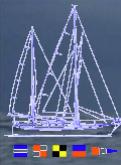
The next evening, we headed for Causeway Cove Marina for an impromptu Black Sound Marina reunion. There were several folks, including us that could not get to GTC because of Hurricane Dorian damage. Danielle set up the whole thing which resulted in PJ and Rob hosting the shindig with Danielle and Rob (Spice), Dale and Silvia, Carrington and his wife (marina owners), Henri and Margaret, and several others. Great time but Bob was a little tired and maybe had a little too much wine but still great time.



Our last stop before heading home is Vero Beach where we will see Tom Butz and his friend, Rosemary. We actually saw them twice, once at church and today at Manatee's restaurant where we had a great time. We met Tom at Marsh Harbour some 7 years ago where he and Barry took an interest in this bewildered couple trying to figure out Hope Town. We also shared a bus to go to church in Marsh Harbour. We met up several times within the last many years at Vero Beach.

Great Land Voyage! We arrived back in Wilmington NC around 2000 hours on the 29th.





Voyage 2020: Chapter 2

Spring 2020 [Covid-19 Mini Cruise]

19 Apr 2020, Pondering our Past while in COVID-19 Times, [38 46.494 N / 076 33.792 W](#)



We have been self quarantined for 7 weeks while preparing for our voyage North. Obviously we will have to change our plans. Meanwhile, we work on little plans, big plans, and multi-year plans while we work on the boat. There is plenty of time for reminiscing on our sailing past. Let's spend some words and go back to the 1970's.

Bob started his sailing experience on a one design Mobjack as ballast. The sailing experience was one I'll never forget: sailing is wonderful, racing not so much. In 1977, we bought a 20' sailboat after trying out some smaller ones. Our pride became the SV Coriolis. We had less than two days of experience between the two of us, but our broker, Tom, was a great teacher. We sailed her for five years with our largest passage from Washington DC to the Chesapeake (Tangiers Island). Good times were had except when we got caught in a near gale in the Middle Potomac. We knew we would need a bigger boat but we would have to wait. So we said good-bye to Coriolis in 1982.

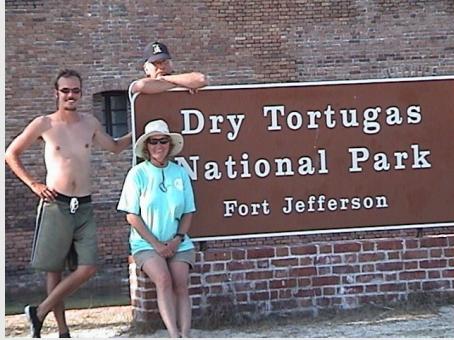


Years later (1995), we rekindled our love for sailing and cruising. The "ocean" was no longer a dirty word. We found the Baltic Sea yacht, SV Jule III (Laurin 38). Mercy, she was big! We were scared but she was ours. One weekend, we sailed to Oxford where an older gentleman helped us tie up. We chatted, talked about our boats, and then said good night. His boat was a beautiful wooden yawl similar to the picture to the left. That night he and his wife were with friends on his boat. When they all left, it was clear that the wife was in ill health. The next day, as they were about ready to head South, I asked him how far they were going to go. With sadness in his face, he said "we will go until it's time to go back". We believe that she was in her end game of life. After they left, Ann and I said "that will be us one day".

Once Jule tamed us, we worked on a long range plan or 'bucket list'. It was consistent with our company (Advanced Research Corporation), family, and our improving sailing skills. The first item on the list was a circumnavigation of the Delmarva Peninsula, a trip of nearly 500 miles. It was our first coastal ocean cruise which started with our going aground just shy of leaving the Bay. Docking in Ocean City was a terror with its 3-4 kt current. We managed it with lots of help from the dock manager. Fifteen minutes after the tie-up, we noticed a sailboat anchor in the channel. At slack water, he weighed anchor and calmly went to his slip. Good idea! We got stuck in fog at the Harbor of Refuge in Cape Henlopen. That forced us to transit the C&D Canal at night; Thankfully, the rest of the trip was great but uneventful. Highlights included first grounding, first ocean, first big current maneuvering, first fog, first night transit, and our first canal. Not bad.



Second on the list was the Dry Tortugas, the end of the Key West archipelago. It was in 2000 when we left the Annapolis area and entered the ICW at MM 0. We sailed the ICW, did overnight coastal hops, the dreaded Georgia ICW stretch, and a really nasty overnight stretch from St. Augustine to Canaveral Inlet where the light and variable forecast turned to winds gusting to 30 over shallow water. We made it and stayed at Cape Marina for our Christmas break. It took us 2 months to leave. The Christmas winds were building and we didn't want to do the ICW any further

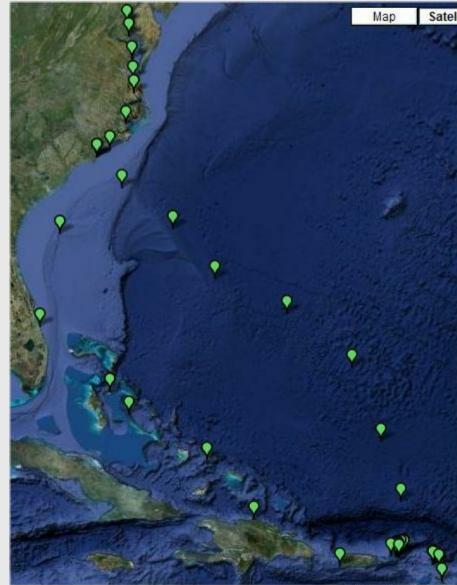


as we planned a non-stop transit from Canaveral to Rodriquez Key. We followed Hawk Channel to Key West where we stayed for two weeks. Wonderful. The next stop was Garden Key where Fort Jefferson stands guard. Our two week stay was our initiation to the cruiser's world. We decided to add a stop to the plan; the Bahamas. We only planned a side trip to Gun Cay, Grand Bahamas and then back to Florida. A strong 10 day Norther kept us at Settlement Point for over 12 days. Two boats decided to brave it but a very angry Gulf Stream sent them back to us. Twelve boats left with us on the 12th day with only a gentle 7 ft. swell on the beam. Nice sailing. We experienced our first heavy weather, first long weather delays, and first passage to the Keys and first taste of the Bahamas.



High on the 'List' was a long distance voyage to Sint Maarten. for Jule III. We started analyzing weather patterns for the month of November a year before our intended 2010 departure. If we left too early, a late hurricane or tropical depression might cause dangerous conditions. If we left too late, early winter storms may overtake us before we arrive at St. Maarten. As November neared, we started monitoring the GRIBs (low bandwidth) digital weather that we can receive on the high seas. We found a longer term weather window starting on 22 November that had possibilities. Unlike previous windows, 22 Nov looked better as we approached the date. Final provisioning was completed and float plan filed as we departed Carolina Beach heading for Simpson Bay in Sint Maarten. The Gulf Stream days were flat calm but by the 4th day, the winds were filling from the NE (as predicted); then building and veering to ENE@15-25 kts from day 7-10. Seas were building to 10-15 ft with a descent period. We shook both reefs out on day 10 and set anchor in Simpson Bay on the 5 December 2010. We were beside ourselves. The island was beautiful. Home was on Jule III in Simpson Bay Lagoon. We visited St. Barths, and St. Kitts, but we always returned Home. We made many local friends and cruiser friends while at Home.

The way back to the States was downhill, slow, and relaxing. We spent a month in the BVI; a month in the USVI; ten days in Culebra; a week in Puerto Rico; 10 days in Luperon; an overnight in Mayaguana, then through the rest of the Archipelago, and on to Vero. A trip of a lifetime. Check [Voyage 2010](#) for the Log of 2010.



Our last bucket list items were Maine and Canada. We had trips to Maine and Nova Scotia in 2014 and 2016. Both trips had the port of entry of Shelburne. From Shelburne, we traveled up to Lunenburg. Our last trip to Shelburne was interesting in that we were less than 4 hours out from Portland when a thick fog covered the rest of our trip or at least most of it. During the transit, we saw our one and only fog bow. It was very calming; not sure why. The fog was lifting just as we approached McNutt Island at the mouth of Shelburne Harbour. The bad news was that it was nighttime. Fortunately, we had been in the Harbour in 2014 so we thought we could navigate the 20 miles up to the town. Luck would have it that we didn't hit anything. Shelburne was a pleasant town as were the people throughout the province. When we left Nova Scotia, we headed for Maine. The lobster floats were overwhelming with a big O! We probably entered

the Mount Desert area from the wrong direction but we nearly had a coronary. Adding fog to the traps was a sight to see. Fortunately, we never ate a 'warp' so things eventually calmed down. We are striving for a last trip to the Bay of Fundy. We were to be on our way now but COVID 19 had other ideas. We will see...we will see.



30 Apr 2020, Waiting on Weather and Coronavirus, [38 46.524 N/ 076 33.774 W](#)

We have been in self imposed Covid-19 quarantine for almost a month until a virtual lock down was imposed on Maryland on 1 April. So much fun. We managed to get a visit from Chris and his family before the lock down. After that, we performed boat projects, watched TV, and dreamed of voyages to Canada (and Green Turtle Cay). We couldn't go to church but did manage to watch it on TV. At times it was difficult to exercise as the many folks around did not practice 'social distancing' nor face masks.



The weather was bad; it was cold (diesel heater for over a week), docks almost flooded twice, high winds much of the time. Yuck! Spring was trying pop out, but only begrudgingly. After a month and a half, we decided on a new plan. Instead of Canada, we would go to Elizabeth City and visit friends. We would sail down, spend a week and then sail back. Not as grand as Canada but a good plan nevertheless. So we provisioned and provisioned until there was a weather window. Wish us luck.



4 May 2020, Mini Trip: First Stop; Solomon's, [38 19.776 N/ 076 27.444 W](#)

Three days ago we left for Solomon's Island for a three day stay at Zanheiser's. The marina was open for transients but most of the facility was closed. On the way to our slip, our bow roller caught on the dock. We took away a small chunk of dock and redesigned the roller (see gallery below). Not our finest hour (more to come).

The Covid lock down has the streets and waterway nearly deserted. While on Cruiseheimers, we heard several of our cruising buddies, including Anthony of MV Magnolia, where he was tied up at Calverts. He sent us this picture of us as he was leaving yesterday. We first met them in Newport RI many, many years ago. We crossed paths from time to time along the waterway.

Bob walked the streets. Pretty town but not much open. We met only one soul (and a cute puppy). He shared a catwalk. Bob enjoyed their daily talks. Sadly, Ann's back is getting worse she rarely leaves the boat. We are hoping for some good news on her medical issues during the summer and fall.



There are very few Roy Rogers these days. We discovered one at Solomon's about fifteen years ago. Ann got a roast beef sandwich and I got a Double-R-Bar Burger; and of course the fixin' bar. Wonderful! Yesterday, Bob hiked from the marina to Roy's for a RR Carry out. Yep, a Dbl-R-BBgr and a RB sandwich; but no fixin' bar. Actually, got our RR eats twice while were there. Tomorrow, we head for Reedville.



[**5 May 2020, Second Stop: Reedville, VA, 37 50.304 N/ 076 16.806 W**](#)

Left Solomon's at 0830 with a light NE wind. We had a good motor sail past the Potomac River but the wind became unfavorable as we turned up the Great Wicomico. Reedville is less than two miles up the Cockrell Creek. We usually tie up at the Crazy Crab as it is convenient and the people friendly. We always enjoy the 'Stack', the chimney from an old time Menhaden factory when the industry was booming. Today, the fishing industry uses airplane spotters, mother ships, and remote 'dories' positioning the nets. The town experiences a unique smell when the factories are running and the wind is from the South.





Just as we finished tying up Jule, it started raining with a vengeance. By 1800, the weather was settling and the Cap'n had a chance to walk the street of Reedville. We love this town but today it has all of the activity of other small towns during the Covid era. A few decades ago, we were thinking of buying property here but stores and medical services were in short supply. Friendly people were abundant. Weather will turn foul late tomorrow so we will hustle down to Norfolk tomorrow.

9 May 2020, Third: Norfolk, 36 50.724 N/ 076 18 W

We left Reedville at dawn as the trip to Norfolk would take 10-12 hours. Weather should hold until tomorrow. Our plan is to spend the weather days at Hospital Point on the hook. We started off with one kt. opposing tide but it soon reversed and grew to 1.5 kt. favorable. Our trip was uneventful until ... this cloud bank appeared on the western skyline. Hmm. Weather radar and NOAA said 'no big deal'. We had only the mizzen up so we continued.



Should have furled the mizzen!! The brunt of the squall (25 gusting to 35 kt.) hit us as we were rounding the James River into the Elizabeth River with blinding rain. Of course, two large containers and their supporting tugs were passing us. In addition, a dredge was dredging blocking half the channel. Oh, and we didn't douse the mizzen. But we managed. Hopefully, we will plan better next time.

We spent four full days at Hospital Point. We anchored not too far from Five & Dime and two other boats. More came in the following days as the weather worsened. On the third day (early morning), we were greeted by our anchor alarm. Ann turned on the engine and put Jule in gear to stop our dragging. Bob went up to the bow to retrieve the anchor; as it came up he saw a tire on the flukes, lots of rope, lots of shell fish, and two chunks of steel (see gallery). It took over a hour to remove the tire. Poor Ann had to 'drive' the boat for all this time in 50 degree weather. Apparently we anchored on the tire. Hope we don't find it on our return trip.



10 May 2020, The Dismal Swamp Canal, 36 39.21 N/ 076 22.11 W



Left Hospital Point at 0830 and headed for Deep Creek lock. Of course we had to wait for the Norfolk & Western #7 Railroad bridge for 30 minutes. But we had planned for it in our timetable. We didn't realize immediately, but Deep Creek is skinny at low tide Robert was on duty at the Deep Creek Lock and warned us of an encroaching shoal. We like Robert for his professionalism, personality, and canal tidbits. Sadly, we didn't hear him play the conch this year. As usual, we had an effortless locking experience.

We tied up on the free dock on the port side of the canal where we were greeted by a bunch of kids with their parents and grandparents. The children were so excited to see us dock in their park. We were excited to talk to them (social distancing, of course) as this is the only social contact we have had since for nearly a month.



We stayed for an extra day as weather on the outside (of the canal) would not be too attractive. We walked the bike trail, talked to the bikers and the park's maintenance staff, and did some boat chores. Today we departed for South Mills and Elizabeth City. Approaching the lock, we had difficulty with a boat backing down on us while we both waited for the bridge. We had to back quickly, lost control, and our masthead went into a tree. We freed ourselves, caught the bridge, and surveyed the damage (wind instruments disabled). Bad stuff comes in 3's. Depressing.



12 May 2020, Destination: Elizabeth City, 36 17.994 N/ 076 12.732 W

We locked through the South Mill lock and 'sailed' down the mighty Pasquotank towards EC. With the help of Brian, we tied up to the face-dock of the Pelican Marina. We have been coming here through three sets of owners. The town is a slave to weather. Strong SE winds for days at a time can damage the waterfronts and can subject serious flooding to the historic business community. Got to admire these folks.





EC was the home to the "Rose Buddies", a community led coalition welcoming traveling cruisers with free dockage and a wine & cheese party. Fred Fearing led the effort from 1983 to 2007. History says that Willard Scott (former WRC and NBC weather forecaster) was so impressed with the Rose Buddies that he gave Fred a golf cart to facilitate the wine and cheese parties. We enjoyed Fred and his guys.

Many of our friends and acquaintances are no longer here. Diesel Dave died just before we arrived, folks moved to new opportunities, or just moved away. Billie and Earle are still in town. Billie is on the City Council and Earle lives on his boat, 'Chai'. Jim and Karen came a-visiting on the way from South Carolina to the York River. It was wonderful seeing them on their (sorta new) boat. They took this picture of a handsome couple on the handsome boat.

Tomorrow we leave and head back up. Of course, the weather has turned foul for the next five days



[**19 May 2020, Heading Back Home, 36°20.79'N/ 076°13.518'W**](#)



Time to follow our track back to Homeport. We will add an additional stop on the Eastern Shore: Kiptopeke. But today's destination is an anchorage behind Goat Island on the Pasquotank. We anchored at 1400 in the lee of Green #17. Weather forecast was calling for 20 kts gusting to 30 but at the anchorage we could hardly generate electricity. This place is almost a hurricane hole with good protection, great holding, and soft shores. We decided to stay another day as the forecast was much like it is today. It could be puffy once we rise 9' in the lock.

Left Goat Is. two days ago at 0600 so as to catch the 0830 lock at South Mills. We were the first to enter followed by another sailboat. We noticed islands of duckweed in the lock which we hadn't seen the week before. Locking was uneventful and the boat behind asked to pass. We agreed that he should pass around the Visitor's Center due to the closing tree canopy. Once we passed the park's pedestrian bridge, we tucked to starboard and away he went. We stopped but had to squeeze in as another boat was there. Oh yeah, we brushed another tree but no damage.





After a two day stay, we left the DSC, headed down the Elizabeth River, out of Norfolk, and crossed the Chesapeake towards Kiptopeke. Traffic was light during the trip, the bridges were cooperative, and weather was nice but not enough to sail without the motor. We have not anchored in Kiptopeke State Park for over 20 years. Back then it was an idyllic anchorage with a few fish traps outside of the harbor.

As we entered the breakwater(built with scuttled WWI Victory ships), we were saddened with the invasion of crab floats through most of the anchorage. We were not comfortable with our anchorage being close to the concrete hulks and a boat with not enough chain. Oh well, only had to move twice in two days. The pelicans came to roost each night (phew) and the tern type birds apparently were in their mating ritual. Definitely not as we remembered it. The picture to the right is a sunset viewed between the remnants of two cargo holds on one of the Victory ships.



[**27 May 2020, Back Home We Go, 38 46.518 N/ 076 33.792 W**](#)



Left Kiptopeke at 0700 for the long journey to Reedville. Weather was cold with a light NE wind (see Ann in gallery). We had to cut a couple of days out of our trip as nasty weather was coming. So we anchored in Reedville for the night and headed for Solomon's the next day. Our ospreys were not in the normal place. Instead there were was a goose. Times are a changing. Today we wake up to fog. We waited until 0900 then left when we could see 1/4 mile. We got to use our automatic fog horn; first time since 2017.

Fog didn't dissipate until 1330. Passing the LPG terminal was not fun in the fog especially since tanker on station. But nobody got upset so life was good. Conditions were calm with no ripples on the water. No sails were unfurled this day. There was not much marine traffic except for a dozen or so small fishing vessels. We entered Herring Bay at 1500 and approached our slip at 1600. We achieved a perfect maneuver into our slip. How unusual. Good to be back





Voyage 2020: Chapter 3

Summer 2020: [Who knows]



Voyage 2020: Chapter 4

Fall 2020 [Another Mini Cruise?]