



Yearly News Aboard Kalunamoo



December 2013
Lat 18°19.1N, Long. 64°37.0W
kalunamoo.talkspot.com



“I smell land!” Maureen had experienced what sailors noticed ever since oceans were crossed. It is a wakeup call that the routine of sailing on the ocean is about to change. To the south of Kalunamoo, directly ahead of us catching the first rays of the rising sun, was the hill top of Virgin Gorda in the British Virgin Islands. Columbus named it because it resembled a lying pregnant women. I think he was at sea longer than we were. Off to port was the low atoll of Anegada, the first land we have seen, or smelled, since leaving Cape Henry on November 4, after a challenging 12 days at sea.

The first three days at sea, crossing the Gulf Stream in high winds and seas, was not very pleasant. We were part of the Salty Dawg Rally of over 100 boats so we were not alone although rarely in sight of anyone else. A dozen boats got into trouble during this time, one sank and others were evacuated by the Coast Guard or turned back to land. We survived with some bruises from being tossed around. It was the start of our Caribbean relocation in November of this year



I say relocation as cruising in the same area for months at a time is not like an extended vacation, even in a vacation paradise. You have the luxury of seeing and doing things as if you lived in the area. We are often asked, “Don’t you get bored?” as if living in a different place for months at a time is boring. It is no more boring than living in the same place for 12 months a year!



Since the last newsletter we explored more of the Bahamas last spring. We sailed to the Exumas, Long Island (Bahamas), Conception, Eleuthera and then back through the Abacos to the U.S, arriving in New York in May. Our blog at Kalunamoo.talkspot.com details these voyages and the voyage to the BVI’s in November.



In June we had a great family gathering on a cruise ship in the Caribbean! Melanie, Laura, Liz, Son-in-laws Dave, Drew, Sean, and grandkids Corey, Shane, Michael, Timothy, Ryan and princess Caleigh all came. James, being just a year old didn’t come. We all flew to San Juan and then sailed for a week visiting islands that we may return to on our own boat. It was fun and an opportunity to reconnect with the family.

Our oldest grandkids, Corey and Shane are both in high school. Corey is looking at colleges! Their schedules now include

school, sports, hunting, work, and friends (girl). Melanie still works for Kodak and looks like she may be part of the new management team in that restructured company. Michael and the twins, Timothy and Ryan are busy as ever with sports and school. Laura still works from home and babysits for Caleigh and James. Liz commutes to Brooklyn to her counselor job at PS206 but driving on the Belt is not her favorite time of day. James is doing great walking around and getting into all the things little boys love to get into. Caleigh, now in Nursery School, has a closet full of shoes to match her mother’s.



Cell phones, Skype, SPOT, Facebook, and email reduces some of the sting of being away from family and friends. Thanksgiving on a beach with other cruisers was nice and Christmas and New Year’s in the Islands will be interesting but we will miss the family gatherings. We plan on flying in January to NY to visit and then return by boat by June. For now we are living in the endless summer of the Caribbean, meeting new friends, visiting new places, – repairing your boat in exotic places – we take each day’s weather as it comes.

**To All a Merry Christmas and
Healthy New Year.**

**Bill & Maureen
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