

Jeff and Jean at Antigua Marine Survey & Consulting, or
TWO CAN SAIL the year in review..... Goodbye 2009!



January blew in with a cool breeze and we spent the month teaching between Sailing Florida Charters in St. Pete and Southwest Florida Charters at Burnt Store Marina. We met Nana from U-Boat and hooked up with Ed Massey.



Jean cleaned up “Booyabay” for Gary in exchange for starting up our website and Regan designed a tri-fold brochure for us.
TWO CAN SAIL couples training was born!

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February began with our first Couple to Couple training class. We helped Gus and Karla prepare their new Catalina 350 for the trip from Bradenton Fl. to Kemah Texas. We attended the Regional SAMS meeting in St Augustine then flew up to DC for a quick visit and returned in time to work the Miami Boat Show.



At the end of the month we sailed with Brian and Bobby to Burnt Store Marina to lead the ASA Flotilla as the Pirate King and Queen.



Sunset at Burnt Store Marina

Jeff hurries back to St Pete by car to teach a class and Jean delivers “Tesoro” back to CYC. It was a race against time with storm warnings calling for extremely severe weather. Jean stood on to arrive just before the teeth of the worst weather. Four NFL football players were not as lucky when their small boat capsized and left all but one dead. Jean interviewed on the Channel 10 news.

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March we sailed from Bradenton to Clearwater and then on to Kemah Texas on “Carpe Diem”. It took about 11 days, beginning at CYC departing at 13:30 on the 4th crossing the gulf to Venice Louisiana arriving at the dock 15:30, spent one day waiting for a weather window then proceeded out Tiger Pass (heavy fog delayed departure cleared the exit at 13:00) to arrive in Grand Isle 17:30 where the dock master Andy sailed out to greet us and lead us into the marina.. Gus and Karla gave their first boat tour and cocktail party followed by warm showers at the dock masters home. We eat fresh oysters with Professor John and grilled steaks with the couple from the Sports Fish beside us. The Captain said “ dang you got a bow thruster on that thing?”.



March 10 we depart Grand Isle for a fourteen hour run to Houma where we meet Gus and Karla’s daughter and slept under the bridge. The public dock is between the two bridges pictured above.

March 11 another long day, but traveling in smooth water along the Inter Coastal Waterway, talking to the tug boat captains made the time pass quickly, “See ya on the one good buddy”. Arriving in Morgan City just before sunset we walked over to Rita Mae’s for hush puppies and gumbo. Morgan City to Intercoastal City’s Shell Morgan Landing where they said they had showers.....as long as you don’t mind they’re in an out house with lots of mosquitoes and by the way no hot water. Brrrrr! Ouch!

Top off the fuel and continue west to the Bell City drainage canal anchored in the center of the canal just off the side of the waterway. Tug boats passing in the fog looked like they came out of the movie set War of the Worlds! We tried out the DVD player by watching Captain Ron, snuggled below out of the rain and mosquitoes. Early morning depart anchorage at GIWW mile marker #212 to continue on to the Calcasieu River, where we tucked in behind big ships to join the traffic pattern. Karla chats with ship’s pilot about the New Hampshire hailing port. Exit the river in the rain for the last overnight to the entrance to Galveston Bay. Fast passage kept us waiting for day break to slide across the wreckage to Lakeview Yacht Club Carpe Diem’s new home.

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March 21: Eight ladies attended the Women Only Sailing Clinic at CYC. Jean instructed the classroom course followed by an afternoon sail on (2) Catalina 27's from Flagship Sailing School with Capt's Jean & Karen. The \$145 fee for the clinic included classroom instruction a "Sailing Windwheel", lunch and the afternoon sail. Wednesday night March 25th Jeff taught Sail School at BCYC.



Below Jeff teaching "Racing Tactics Seminar" for FWSA.



April we attended a Bay Sailors meeting, Jean taught a private lesson in Safety Harbor. We found the villa in Burnt Store Marina.. Day sailed Poly once or twice. Jean did Race Committee for the Clark Mills Regatta and together we surveyed "Destiny" Bristol 47. April 15th Jeff taught a Racing Tactics Seminar at BCYC for the Florida Women's Sailing Association a dozen ladies attended for \$16 pp the one hour seminar included lunch.

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April 16 - Depart for two weeks to Antigua: week one, Classic week and the ASA
member's event., week two, the world famous Antigua Race Week!



ASA Member's week at Club Colonna



J Boat "RANGER" heading out for the race.

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J Boats Cross Tacks



“RANGER” fly’s a kite!

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Val joins us for Antigua Race Week, watching Jeff's fleet start below.



Jeff is Crew on Swan 48 "Avocation" pictured on the cover of the race program.
We meet Hank from OPO.

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Jean meets the all female crew from Hamburg, Germany.



Below is the Fleet docked at Jolly Harbor for the big party mid week.



May 2 we arrive back in Clearwater in time for the Blessing of the Fleet at CYC.

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Jeff and Jean attend kick off party for the Clearwater Key West Race followed by the morning press conference for Zack at Sunsail announcing their support. We head over to Ft Pierce to attend the sea trial of the “Black Swan” and meet Dave & Alison. May 21 Jean is the speaker for the FWSA at Davis Island and gives talk about sailing in Antigua. In the last week in May both Jeff and Jean teach for Sailing Florida at the Vinoy Resort in St. Pete.



June begins with a three day couple to couple class with Bill and Rosie Rissel. We sailed to Twin Dolphin Marina then spent one night at anchor in the Manatee River off the Cross. In the middle we spent one beautiful day on the beach at Egmont Key before the final day’s boisterous delivery back to Clearwater. On Saturday June 6 we secured Poly for storm season at took off to Ft. Pierce to begin the three week long journey with Dave & Alison aboard the “Black Swan”.

The “Black Swan” three weeks in review.

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Ft Pierce head 120 miles offshore to meet the Gulf stream and catch a ride to Beaufort, NC. We spent one overnight at the dock as a strong front kicks through. Depart the next day set full sail and continue offshore to Sandy Hook, NJ.



NEW YORK!

NEW YORK HARBOR!

One overnight at Great Kills marina on Staten Island then an early morning departure we head into New York Harbor, passing the Statue of Liberty and all the Circle Ferry Boats packed to the brim with tourists running helter skelter. It was overcast with a few sprinkles but we pressed on. Up the Hudson, one more overnight in Haverstraw before Hop O Nose along Catskill creek where the crew re-provisioned and built saw horses to stow the Masts for the trip across the Erie Canal. Fully stocked with pot roast dinners and beer, with both spars secured in place; we were back underway a new experience purely as a motor boat. We docked in Troy next to mega yacht before beginning our Erie Canal transit.

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Under way!



The Black Swan at Hop O Nose, Before the Masts came down.

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Low Bridge everybody down Low Bridge we're coming to a town on the Erie Canal.



Then there are technical difficulties.....so we wait for the mechanic.



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Locks and more locks “it’s like ground hog day”.....until Buffalo!



Holding the boat off the lock walls we stick it to ‘em!

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The three week journey ended with a left turn to Buffalo and a right turn to visit the falls.



We were only a short drive to Niagara Falls pictured here at night!

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July we returned home and checked on Poly at her slip in Clearwater. We spent a quiet night at home at our new home in Burnt Store for the 4th. Then right away both of us taught classes for Sailing Florida. We had a play day at CYC for the dinghy poker run on the 11th. Marianne had a crew party at her place. We taught classes and did a Team Building Charter. We ended the month of July teaching classes for Southwest Florida Cruising School out of Burnt Store Marina and walking to work.

August began the boat shopping month working with Louis & Consuelo, Julio and Fabiana as well as Leah. We toured the Caliber Factory and Jean reconnected with George and Kathy. We also toured the Island Packet factory and touched base with Warren. We met Ed Whitaker who specializes in Island Packets and hosted a visit with Julio and Fabiana whom we met in Antigua. Plus we worked teaching 19 days of ASA classes for the various schools. Sadly we missed Mike & Judy's beef Wellington party. On the 28th we flew to Annapolis with Rich Riddle to survey "Imagine" for Louis and Consuelo. Jeff wrote the instructor tip for the Journal of the ASA, "Pumps can be a valuable tool for plumbing or engine."



Julio and Fabiana aboard Polyphonic for a evening sail.

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September 1st found us off to the Florida Keys, to survey “Flirt” for Leah who found her dream boat a 1969 C&C 36 Frigate.



September 7th we delivered Poly to Snead to haul her out and inspect the lightening damage from our direct hit on August 18.



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We both taught ASA classes thru the week then flew to Houston for the annual SAMS Symposia. While in Houston we met with John DeWitt from GDS about creating Couples delivery service. September 19 Jean's Birthday was spent flying home from Houston and then re-packing our bags to drive to Key Largo with Leah to sail "Flirt" back to her new home Davis Island. I think the picture below shows how the trip went, can you see that smile!



Since Leah did not need the dinghy or water maker we arranged for Louis and Consuelo to buy them (since Imagine did not come equipped with either) so they met us at DIYC.

Friday September 25th Survey and sea trial of sailing vessel "Phoenix" for Mr. & Mrs. Shaw at Cortez Cove in Bradenton. Saturday and Sunday Jeff helmed J109 Boat "Mariah" for the Bradenton kick off Regatta. September 29 we fly to Baltimore to meet Louis, Consuelo & the kids to move "Imagine" 200 miles from the Patapsco River down the Chesapeake Bay and then up the Potomac River to the Gangplank Marina a stones throw to the Washington Monument and Jefferson memorial. Put the new name on the stern of Stella Maris.



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Flirt's dinghy with new family!

The dog watch!



Approaching the Gangplank Marina the big yacht in front of the bow is "Sequoia" the retired presidential yacht.

October after the trip down the Chesapeake we attended the Annapolis Boat Show where we did booth time at the ASA booth. While we were there we met with Charlie Nobles and discussed members week possibilities in Clearwater. We met Lou and Donna Szabo to plan our upcoming teaching cruise on their new Leopard 40 Catamaran in the Abaco's.

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We flew directly from Annapolis Boat Show to the IBEX industry show in Miami. Then we got home just in time for Jeff to teach class at Sailing Florida and for Jean to survey "Bluebird" a Sabre 38 for the other Lee. Jean mailed off a request for upgrade paperwork in to SAMS corporate office; previewed an IP 320 for Ken and Kris. Then the last weekend in October we spent with Pat and Jolene aboard their Catalina 440 deck saloon for a preview of our couple to couple class.



November came in with 30 knot sustained winds in the Abaco's, but we made the best of it. Lou and Donna had a great time and it ended on a beautiful note, perfect sailing from Hope Town back to Marsh Harbor.

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Donna & Lou on the new boat!



Geo Cache..... on Guana Cay.



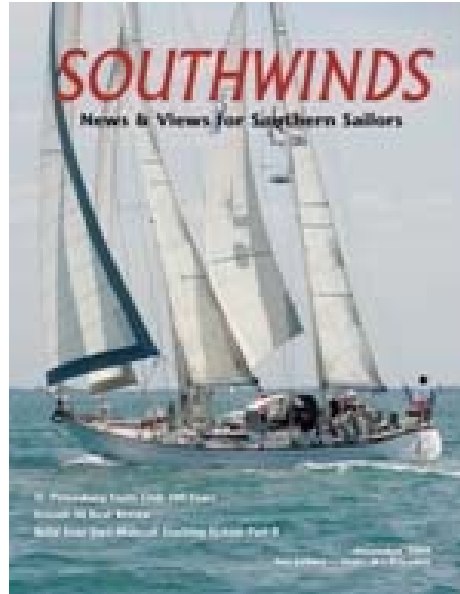
Grabbers on Guana Key!



Looking for a mooring in Hope Town.

December began with the St Pete Boat Show and Polyphonic is a cover girl, we made the cover of Southwinds.

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Jean worked the ASA booth at the show and took people for Discover Sailing rides on the Bay for Dave at Sailing Florida. Jeff taught a Catamaran course over the same weekend. The Florida Gators lost to Alabama in the last game of the season. Jeff taught another ASA class at Southwest Florida Yachts at Burnt Store. December 18 will stand out in our minds after breaking the ice to sea trial “Springtide” a Tartan 3500 we surveyed in Chester Town MD. It snowed and snowed and snowed a total of twenty four inches over night, we were stuck in the hotel for two days. We celebrated Jeff’s Birthday with his mom taking us to see” Invictus”, and dinner with the Family. We welcomed in the New Year with the cooler drop at BCYC, jamming with the band until 03:15, when the fire dancers took over we headed home.

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Springtide before the snow!