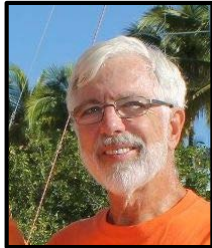


The Great British Virgin Island Sailing Trip of 2014

December 8th through 18th



CAPTAIN ROB



ADMIRAL DONNA



CREW ED



CREW CINDY



CREW DAVE



CREW SUSIE

Monday, 12/8/2014

Departure from Marco Island

Cindy, Eddie, Susie & Dave arrived at the home of Rob & Dona Reiley at a very ungodly hour of the early morning. After filling up the back of the Tahoe, we secured several more bags on the top, strapped them all down covered with a tarp and departed Marco Island for our great adventure at 7:15am. Cindy & Donna had the “way back” seat and we made Mimosas



for everyone for our ride to Miami. We parked the car at the Sheraton close to the airport. It was noted that Marco Rubio went through security with us.

After we all made it safely through security, the guys went to the bar for breakfast beers, while the girls went to buy sandwiches before getting onto our American Airlines flight which departed at 11:15 for St. Thomas. After landing in St. Thomas, we took the \$12 taxi to the ferry dock and got tickets for the Road Town Fast Ferry...\$45 one way.

We had a short wait, so of course we went upstairs to the Petite Pump Room for some Heinekens while we waited. The Ferry ride to Tortola was a very pleasant ride and we had several beers while we enjoyed the scenery. Next we went through customs, finally got our bags, and took the shuttle bus to the Moorings and eventually our boat.



For this trip instead of having Rob & Donna’s boat (which was being used by a sailing school) we had a 39 foot catamaran sailboat named “Paradox” from Baltimore, MD. It was a very spacious boat, with 4 cabins (we used one as storage) and 2 heads with flushing toilets. Donna thought that the symbols for the toilets looked like a vagina. There was a very small galley kitchen area, a large refrigerator/freezer, a dining area in the salon and a larger outside dining area at the cockpit area.

We had a hose for outside showers, a grill, and a dinghy at the back end of the boat (“poop deck” according to Eddie). The “pointy end” of the boat had a huge trampoline which got much use during the beautiful evenings on board...more later. The Paradox draws 3 ½ feet and cruises at about 5 knots/hour.

After putting away all of the stuff we brought down we went out to dinner at the Capriccio diMare Restaurant in Road Town. Yummy!! When we got back to our boat, we went to retrieve some stuff from the Moorings locker. Coming back to the boat we met some really cute firemen! We settled into our boat with more Painkillers and then off to bed.



Tuesday, 12/9/2014

At the Moorings

While we were still docked at the Moorings, we had an 8am “cat” tutorial by Alan. Even though both Rob & Donna are excellent captains and know all they would need to know about their own boat, this was the first time on this cat and Rob felt he needed some instruction. Alan showed us how to work everything and assured us that we could use both the toaster and coffee pot at the same time. WRONG!! After the tutorial, Cindy, Eddie, Rob, Donna, & Dave went shopping for some more supplies. The guys went for beer and rum-Old Nick Caribbean Gold Rum (\$5/bottle) as well as Bacardi Rum and Vodka for Donna (\$82) while Cindy & Donna went to the grocery store for meats and veggies (\$125). On the walk back, Cindy stopped at the bakery to get some fresh bread and muffins (\$15).



There are great shower facilities at the Moorings with soap and towels provided, so we took advantage of this before we left the dock. After a nice breakfast of bagels and coffee, we all chose our snorkel equipment, secured the dinghy, and then we were off the dock. Donna captained our boat to Cooper Island. We motored because she was nervous about getting a good mooring ball and wanted to get there quickly. We saw a huge freighter carrying 2 yachts to the Moorings. Dave & Eddie are the “ball” guys for the trip we called them “Happy Hookers”. Donna did a great job, we got our mooring ball, and then we had a nice lunch of fresh bread, Camembert cheese, and apples. Cindy was the first to pop a Heinie. We now have the Schafer beer and diet coke chilled in the cooler on deck.



One big complaint about this boat is the lack of storage and no placemats. Oh well, we will just have to persevere! Cindy, however, LOVED Rob & Donna’s good knives that they brought along! After lunch, we took the dinghy to Cooper Island and wore crab, Nemo, and shark hats just to frighten the native “belongsers”. Dave, who doesn’t remember Cooper Island, bought a round of Red Stripe beers.



Back on the boat, we sailed to Marina Key. Rob made another round of Painkillers while Eddie & Dave took the dinghy to Pusser's to obtain some fresh nutmeg nuts. There was none at the store, so they went to the bar where they were also told "sorry...we're out", then they went up to the restaurant where they got 5 nuts for free. That is a good thing, because Rob's Painkillers require fresh grated nutmeg for the top (right after the "floater"). We had a great

dinner of BBQ chicken, salad, quinoa, and fresh bread. We also had Betty Neville's oatmeal cookies and Chex mix that Donna brought. After dinner, Susie & Donna fed Neptune with our leftovers.

Cindy & Susie rode the bow (pointy end) to Cooper and Marina Key. What a beautiful sunset! Our first night on the water had some very enlightening conversation. Donna & Susie were the only sober ones! They did some crossword puzzles. Eddie admitted "I'm not



perfect all the time" ...no kidding!! The guys strategized about buying a yacht and renting it out to Fantasy Fest people with advertising done by Maddog. Donna & Rob stated that they will not buy another sailboat after their current one. (But toward the end of the trip, Donna noted their next boat will be a cat...so we'll see.)

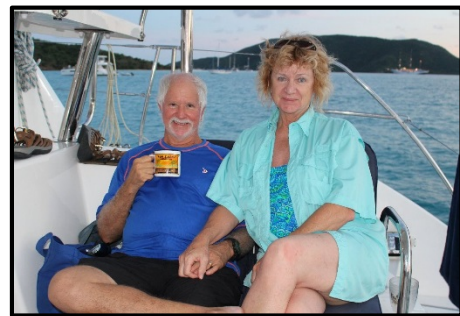


Wednesday, 12/10/2014

Marina Key



This morning Rob read us the history of Marina Key. Rob & Rodie White developed Marina Key, which is a private island, after sailing there



on their 17 foot sloop in 1937. He also told us to beware of the Manchioneel trees and their sap which are poisonous. Don't stand under them during a rain storm! After our delicious breakfast of yogurt and muffins we took the dinghy over to Marina Key and Pusser's.



Eddie bought a Pusser's cup and Cindy bought postcards. We had some fabulous photo opps, especially from high up on the hilltop. The vegetation is lovely! Susie talked to some German people at the bar. Back to the boat for some more sailing. Dave popped open the first Schafer Beer at 12:00 noon and we entered the Atlantic Ocean at 12:30pm. We had about an hour's motoring to "The Dogs" where we hoped to get a good mooring ball. The first ball we tried was very rough due to the north swells...should we stay or

leave? Another ball opened up so we took it and stayed a while. While there we saw "Afterlife", Rob & Donna's own boat!! What are the chances??? We had a great lunch of chlidogs, then Dave, Donna, Eddie and Cindy went in the water. Susie dangled her feet because she was afraid she couldn't climb back up the ladder with her bad knee. We departed the Dogs around 2:30pm and went over to Prickly Pear in the North Sound of Virgin Gorda where we dropped anchor around 4:00pm. Eddie & Rob took the dinghy over to Leverick Bay in search of Coco Lopez for the Painkillers. Rob made us some without the floaters this time.



Today we saw Sir Richard Branson's mansion while on Drake's Anchorage (Mosquito Island). While we were moored here, Donna put on some "oldies" music and Susie & Cindy did pole dancing on the boat. Rob called and confirmed our reservation at Leverick Bay, which was lucky because we didn't have one!

We did Donna's favorite thing...Happy Hour "chillin", enjoying the scenery and the "intercourse of congenial spirits". We spent the evening in random "chit chat". Loved David Caruso on CSI Miami, "Blurred Lines", pole dancing, "You don't have to call me Darlin'...Darlin'". Dave said he always wanted to be a male prostitute until he found out that those who use male prostitutes are also male! Dave is obsessed with dual AC. When we discuss this yacht's negatives, there is no place for hanging Rob's binoculars when driving the boat. Also, the back of the boat needs a lip so that nothing rolls off the boat. (We will really learn this later in the trip!) Tonight Dave is "the entertainer". Cindy notices the moon coming up over the mountain and Dave insisted that it looked like a house...as it got higher in the sky Cindy said it must be a skyscraper. Tonight we all ended up on the trampoline star gazing. We saw Orion's Belt and since we were playing Christmas music on the stereo, we all sang Christmas carols. We all agreed that we really loved Rod Serling's Twilight Zone and Roy Orbison music. It is a good thing that we were anchored out away from all the other boats... we might have been a little loud!



Thursday, 12/11/2014

North sound of Virgin Gorda



Last night we anchored at Prickly Pear Island and it rained. We had to wait for Rob to turn on the generator to make coffee. We usually drink 2 pots each morning. Joe came by in his conch boat...Dave took his picture and tipped him 2 Schafer beers. Conch shells were \$10 each. We next went to Bitter End in the North Sound of Virgin Gorda. We took the dinghy to shore and walked the length of the beach area. We stopped by the local bar Crawl Pub, and had beers, Bushwhackers, Mudslides, and "BBC". Donna, Rob, Cindy, Ed, and Dave walked to the pool in the new section, but Susie stopped about half way there to rest her knee. We then took





the dinghy over to Saba Rock. Cindy & Eddie were here years and years ago. Then we went over to Fat Virgin for lunch. We had El Presidentes before Happy Hour and Painkillers during Happy Hour (\$3.00). The burgers here are yummy. We returned to the boat and moved it over to Leverick Bay where we dropped anchor. Dave and Eddie, the “Ball Busters”, “Happy Hookers” and “Anchor Anglers” had a workout! We took the dinghy over to see the “Jumbies” for Happy Hour, but it ended at 5pm, so one round of drinks cost \$19 per couple. Cindy, Donna, & Rob checked their emails since there was WI-FI here. Rob made car reservations for tomorrow and the “Dinghy Dolls” and “Dinghy Dudes” returned us to the boat around 7pm. Susie took her first real boat shower! Her leg is getting much better. She can get around the boat OK and getting in/out of the dinghy is not too bad if all her weight is on the right leg. She got tired walking around Bitter End, so she rested while the others explored. When we returned to the boat we were “liming”...reading and drinking. We decided that we need a beer drinking schedule...Donna & Susie talked while Rob & Cindy take provision inventory. We need NO food, but of course the guys think we need more beer, booze, and mixers. Rob shows Cindy how to turn on the generator since she is always the first one up and can now make the coffee for everyone. We got to bed around 12:30.



Friday, 12/12/2014

Leverick Bay

This morning we are still anchored in Leverick Bay. There was another rainfall last night...luckily all the hatches were closed. Cindy was up first and successfully turned on the generator at 7:33am to make the coffee. Today Cindy & Susie decided that we wanted to learn nautical terms.

Features of the cat that Donna likes over their monohull boat are the 2 sitting areas (salons), great freezer, the flush toilets, and the bow trampoline for sitting, and walkabout space. Rob loves it when Donna talks “nautical” to him.



The guys are not happy with the pelican lock on the lifeline...it is not a secure clasp. Rob called and asked if we could dock early and we were told OK if we went in stern first, which we did. We got our L&S Rental car Suzuki van for \$75.00 plus \$9.00 gas at the end of the day. Rob drove us all around Virgin Gorda which is a VERY hilly island! The sightseeing is so very beautiful...breathtaking! We drove through Spanish Town and Rob took us to the airport which runs parallel to the coastline. We checked out the rum prices at Beck’s Grocery



at the yacht harbor. Cindy found Appleton Estates Rum and the guys could not believe how cheap it was. We bought 4 bottles and Rob bought himself another bottle of Meyer's Rum. A Christmas celebration closed the main road in Spanish Town. The guys and Susie had El Presidentes beers at Bath & Turtle...the coldest, iciest beer ever!



Dave was excited to see the sign for DeGoose, a favorite spot when he was here with the Scheibels in the past.



We drove up to Maddog for lunch by the Baths on the southwest tip of Virgin Gorda. We had excellent Bushwhackers and delicious sandwiches. Eddie bought himself a Maddog hat and huggie. After lunch, Donna suggested going to Spring Bay to enter the Baths since she knew that Susie would have a hard time on the rocks. Rob, Cindy, & Eddie started to snorkel to the Baths while Susie & Donna floated around in the water at the beach. They were told that for the past 3 days there have been very strong currents and surges...almost impossible to snorkel to the Baths. Dave attempted to snorkel but had trouble and then lost track of Cindy, Eddie, & Rob so he returned to the beach. Meanwhile, the snorkeling was exceptionally rough and Cindy was thrown into the rocks several times

hurting her knee and shoulder. She finally made it to the shore and was almost drowned by the heavy surf before she could get her feet under her. But she persevered and walked through the huge rocks with Rod & Eddie and then she and Eddie hiked up the rocks to the top while Rob went back to the other beach. They drove to the Top of the Baths to pick up Cindy & Eddie. The view was great from the top and Cindy has now caught her breath! Capt. Rob apologizes for trying to drown Cindy.



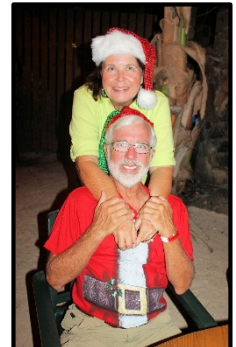
Rob wanted everyone to see the view from the top of Hogs Heaven even though the sun had already set by the time we got there. It was at the very top of the mountain. Rob had to drive on the left side of the road which was very steep with lots of curves...he did a great job! Donna rode shotgun.



Back at Leverick Bay Resort we went to the Pig Roast...the guys wore Santa shirts and the girls wore Christmas earrings that Cindy bought for us. All wore Santa hats. It was fun to see a table with a sign that said "Reserved for Reiley Party". We had a delicious buffet for \$30 each...the total bill was \$110 per couple. We had pictures taken with the Jumbies, who are people on stilts. Dave attempted to get email but the service was too slow. We went back to the Paradox for Painkillers, etc. and talked



about our favorite things so far on the trip. We talked about gay people, Rob & Donna's previous boats, Beetlejuice, and Sacajawea. We talked about "Life of Reiley", "Life of Reiley Too", and "Afterlife"...their three boats. Susie is excited to show Sarah & Tara pictures from today.



Saturday, 12/13/2014
Leverick Bay



Susie was up first today to make the coffee and clean up last night's drink glasses. She walked around the dock area and took pictures. We had bagels for breakfast. The guys showered, topped off our water, scrubbed the deck, and got ice. The first bag is free! The marina was full. Rob took pictures of Dave & Susie in the Jumbies display. Dave sent the kids (via Tara's work email) pictures of Susie with the island and water

in the background. Rob gave Cindy a tutorial of the helm and chart plotter. We set sail but the guys had a hard time getting the sail up the first try and Donna ended up helping Eddie and Dave. After success, "Breakfast Beers" were popped and Donna said that she was so glad to have crew! It is really hard to believe that this is the first cat that Donna & Rob have ever sailed. We are all impressed with how knowledgeable they both are. Donna has said many times that "Afterlife" is their last boat, but she has just recently been discussing which feature she now wants on her new "cat". Dave said a trip to





Miami Boat Show is in order! Eddie & Dave sat at the helm for a while. Rob gave them permission to play with the sails, but not alter the course. Donna said that it is much breezier in the cockpit of the monohull than in the cat. We had about a 2 hour 45 minute sail to Anegada Island. The wind was on the starboard quarter and we averaged around 5 knots. The sea was relatively flat. Cindy & Susie also sat at the helm for a while. Susie was queasy during this trip so she took a second Bromine.

Surprisingly we have seen no dolphins or big fish during this trip. Our “Anchor Anglers” Eddie & Dave did their job as we anchored at Anegada Island. Eddie said “If you are lucky enough to live on the water, you are lucky enough”. Once anchored securely, Capt. Rob immediately made drinks. Cindy made guacamole and Donna made stir-fry nachos for lunch. Dave & Susie napped while Donna swam.



Cindy learned some “nautical” terms. “Under the weather” is a term derived from the leeward bow side of the boat...that is the side which gets the roughest seas. “Posh” is a term originating from sea trips to/from Europe across the Atlantic...staying on the Port (left) side going Over to Europe and the Starboard side coming back Home...only rich people could afford these accommodations. “So cold it will freeze the balls off a brass monkey”. This has something to do with warships and the fact that they used brass monkeys (holders) to keep the cannon balls in place and when it was cold the brass would shrink and the cannon balls could then roll around on the deck of the boat. Cindy was also in charge of “flemishing” the lines.

Rob took the dinghy to get bread for dinner at Neptune’s Treasure. After sunset, we are sat in the cockpit and talked about how many of today’s sayings are nautical in nature. Capt. Rob then made boat drinks for Cindy & Susie...BDBD...Banana Daiquiri Boat Drinks made with coffee ice cream...heavenly!!

Anegada is 8.6 miles long and even has a small airport. It is very flat terrain. The first pool on the island was just recently built. Today, Donna said that Susie & Cindy can help her choose her new cat!! Rob shared his Painkiller recipe with us: Good rum, pineapple juice, OJ, Coco Lopez, garnished with freshly ground nutmeg and with a Meyers’s rum floater. Dave, Eddie & Capt. Rob are “The Nutmegs”. Dave asked how many bottles of rum we have gone through so far and Cindy, Rob, & Eddie said “Don’t ask!” It is bad luck to count...



(Captain’s note: Crew member Dave was very concerned about Happy Hour and Capt. Rob dinghied in to check on Happy Hour...but Dave slept through it.) Tonight’s dinner was spaghetti with fresh bread and



salad. Susie started feeling very tired so she went to bed for a while. She later heard the crew, and joined them, but Donna was reading The Orphan Train on the trampoline. The music from the shore was very loud, so we really couldn’t sing our Christmas carols. Cindy got some fantastic sunset pictures.

Tonight was amazing again with beautiful skies. We saw Orion's belt, but not the yellow skyscraper!! There were SO many shooting stars tonight. It was breathtaking! The music from the shore stopped at 11:00pm so we went to bed and no sooner had we gone down than the skies opened up and it poured rain. There was another rain fall later during the night.

Sunday, 12/14/2014

Anegada Island



Cindy & Susie were up at 8:00am to turn on the generator, make coffee, and clean up. Everyone was checking emails, but the service was slow and Dave did not get any service. It is 52 degrees on Marco Island!! Cindy & Eddie made bacon



and scrambled eggs for breakfast...yummy! We dinghied in to Anegada and rented a minivan (\$85) at Anegada Reef Hotel to tour the island.



We drove through the Settlement and our first stop was "Flash of Beauty" on Loblolly Bay. The water was kind of rough, but we got our feet wet. We had Bushwhackers at the Big Bamboo Bar which was crowded with a wedding party. We looked for the driftwood sign that Rob & Donna had burned on a previous trip, but it was gone. Rob took some "possible Christmas pictures" for Dave & Susie. We stopped at Neptune's Treasure to make dinner reservations and we all ordered the lobster



(small for \$35 and large for \$50). We all chose the small portion. Then we drove to Cow Wreck Beach and bar...a favorite spot! We enjoyed El Presidentes, conch and lobster fritters. Conch shells bordered landscaping on the entire place. There was a great signpost with flip flops hammered on it and a very cool sign that read: **Hurricane Evacuation: Rule #1- Grab Beer, Rule #2-Run like hell!** Cindy bought a sign



for Eddie. This is one of Donna's favorite beaches. Next we drove to Anegada Beach Club for Happy Hour. Dave was happy to find Guinness beer and Eddie tried a Red Stripe. Good prices-3 beers for \$4.00. (Seriously??) We checked out



the new luxury tents being built and swam in the pool before departing. Anegada is a very sparsely populated island...Rob estimates about 200 people live there year round. Donna drove us back and we stopped along the way so that Dave could take photos of the cows on the road. After all, it was the Cow Wreck Beach area. Dave & Eddie put \$10 gas in the car while Donna & Cindy shopped a little. We returned the car and had one last Happy Hour beer at the Anegada



Reef Hotel. We checked out lobster pots on the way back to the dinghy and enjoyed more Happy Hour drinks on the boat before our 7:30 dinner reservation at Neptune's Treasure.



The six of us dinghied over and we were the only patrons that night. We wore our lobster and fish hats to dinner and the owners were impressed. The diner was fabulous...coleslaw, rolls, rice, hot green veggies, and then 1 ½ pound lobster- the perfect amount. Owner Pam entertained us with stories about when her dad worked at Boeing. Dave found a picture of his 747 in her book! Capt. Rob assigned Dave the job of driving the dinghy back to Neptune's' after 7:00am tomorrow to buy mini banana breads and cinnamon rolls.



Monday, 12/15/2014

Anegada Island

Cindy & Susie were up at the same time to make the coffee. The plans were to get up earlier than usual so that we could get an early departure. Dave & Susie took the dingy to Neptune's for the banana bread and cinnamon rolls.

After breakfast, we weighed anchor (another nautical term) around 8:50am to leave Anegada for the LONG trip to Jost Van Dyke. The guys put up the sails but we ended up motoring. The weather was very forbidding and did turn somewhat nasty. Capt. Rob opened his first breakfast beer at 9:32am. By 11:00am the weather had sent us all inside. Susie looked very ill...a shade of green. We were going about 8-9 knots with the motor. Capt. Rob said the longer the boat, the faster it goes. We pulled the



dinghy today. It was an hour trip to Sandy Cay where we moored and had leftover spaghetti lunch. Cindy napped, Capt. Rob & Dave swabbed the deck, and Eddie & Dave took the dinghy in to the island but didn't stay long. There were lots of "noseems" so they came back to the boat. Dave had difficulty getting back into the dinghy, so Eddie towed him back to the boat. It was a beautiful spot, so everyone but Cindy swam and floated in the water.

Afterwards we all had our boat showers. Then we moved the boat on to Jost Van Dyke and our mooring ball (\$30). Dave paid when he and Susie dinghied to Rudy's. They hoped to see Rudy, but no luck. The old Honor Bar was closed and the restaurant is now an upscale island grocery store. They purchased OJ, 2 limes, a 6-pack of coke, and a can of cranberry juice. The waterfront looked the same as their previous trip, but now has two "happening" bars-Ali Baba & Corsair's. Happy Hour on the boat featured Sundowners, crabmeat, cheese, and crackers. We all shared lots of stories about various



cruises, and how easy it is to smuggle alcohol onboard the big cruise ships. It is amazing how much the guys can drink...no idea how many bottles of rum we have



gone through with the Painkillers! Tonight it took forever for the grill to heat up the charcoal for the hamburgers. We did not take many pictures today as the weather was so bad. Donna & Susie enjoy doing crossword puzzles together and tonight Cindy taught Donna some computer games. Cindy got the Marco weather and it is COLD!! So glad we are here! We are getting our days/places/events mixed up...What did we do/see? Where? When? Could be too many Painkillers...But we are having so much fun talking and laughing. Susie still has had no email connection. We had our first indoor salon meal since the charcoal smell from the BBQ was very strong.



Tuesday, 12/16/2014

Jost Van Dyke

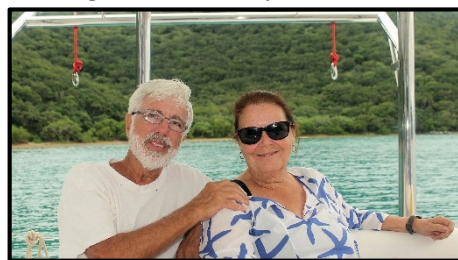
We had a great, fun morning! After a delicious breakfast by Cindy & Eddie of bacon, eggs, and English muffins, 5 of us dinghied to shore...Rudy's was our goal. Weather was getting worse by the minute, but we didn't bring any rain gear. We got to Rudy's before the skies opened up. Luckily the bar was open...not an honor system this year! We saw a guy that Susie thought was Rudy, but she was not sure. He told Susie his name was Johnny (??) and

when she asked a sales clerk if Rudy was coming in, she told Susie that the guy she had been talking to was Rudy! So, she approached him again and he remembered Tara and asked if she was still playing basketball. They reminisced about the days when her family was all there. Of course many photos were

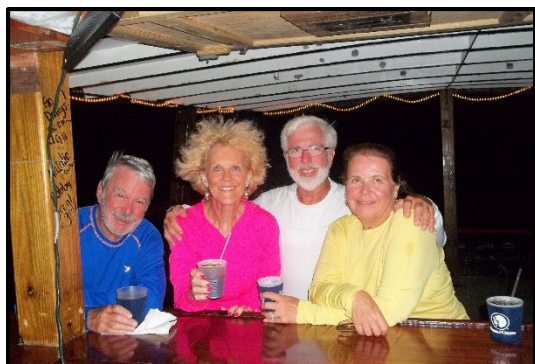


taken. Susie introduced us all to Rudy. By now it was pouring rain so we all had another beer. We bought more supplies (El Presidentes Light for Donna...got to keep the Admiral happy!). We had a wet walk down the rain filled street, and a wet dinghy ride back to the boat, but "hey Mon, no problem!" Susie bought "Rudy" sun visors for Tara & Sarah and Cindy bought "Rudy" huggies. Back on the boat, we put up the main sail but we basically motored to the Bight at Norman Island...another rainy journey. We got a mooring ball near Willy T's. We are

still pulling the dinghy...it is a bitch to hoist it up into its davits!! We had a boat lunch of refried beans, black beans, and a little salsa mixed together in the frying pan with cheese added. We ate it on potato chips and crackers...delicious! Susie had a beer with lunch.



Many napped after lunch, but the guys took the dinghy to Willie T's to make reservations for diner and had a drink...it was a little slow there at the time. Later, we took roadies to Willie T's, but we also consumed many of their drinks all night! We had an interesting, delicious dinner... Chicken roti with the shell made of chickpeas. Susie thought it was spicy, but the rest of us loved it. Susie ordered the special tuna.

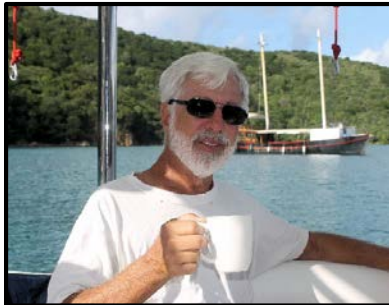


The prices were reasonable. After dinner, we retired to the bar area where we did a lot of dancing and met a few new bar people. Bartender Kellen took pictures for us. He had a new huggie and wanted someone with good writing to write OJ Simpson on it. We chose Capt. Rob. Kellen then bought Rob a drink. Earlier in the evening, we had wondered if the music would keep us awake, but we basically closed the bar and then Kellen turned the music off. Rob, Cindy, Dave, & Eddie had more Painkillers when we returned to our boat. Rob was the first to the trampoline and we all followed except for Donna...she is reading her second book. It was another gorgeous night for stargazing but no shooting stars tonight. Orion's Belt was more southerly. Rob starting philosophizing saying how "Life is like a giant pin ball machine". "Gods are playing with the rabbit ears of life". We have lots of leftover chicken roti for lunch tomorrow.



Wednesday, 12/17/2014

The Indians & back to Tortola



We all awoke to another gorgeous morning the Bight. Susie was up first and "limed" on deck until Cindy got up and turned on the generator to make the coffee. We enjoyed a bagel/muffin breakfast and then Eddie and Dave snorkeled along the eastern shore of the Bight between Willy T's and Pirate's Bite. Donna and Susie splashed around for quite a while. We had leftovers for lunch and Rob bought Donna a calamari salad from Willie



T's. After lunch we motored to the Indians for some snorkeling. There were many pretty fish and we all enjoyed the snorkel trip. Once we were back to the boat, we were trying to put up the mainsail, but it was very rough. Capt. Rob had just made 6 Painkillers for us and they were



all on the outside table when a rogue wave caused by a large speeding boat hit us. Capt. Rob was trying to back the boat out of the area away from the big rocks, Donna, Eddie, and Dave were up on the bow trying to get the sail up, Cindy was at the table holding on to the six drinks and Susie was inside. The drinks were sloshing all over the table and Rob's binoculars were also

on the table, so Cindy grabbed up the binoculars, when the second big wave hit us, one of the drinks turned over completely and two Tervis tumblers went off the back of the boat into the water. Meanwhile, all of the computer stuff...iPads, iPhones, etc. crashed off of the counter onto the floor. Eddie came back and Capt. Rob ordered him to get into the dinghy and rescue the Tervis tumblers that went overboard. Donna said it was too rough to get into the dinghy, but Capt. Rob said "Hell no, get the tumblers", so Eddie did and rescued both Tervis tumblers. What a huge mess on board!





The floor was covered with Painkiller and was very slippery, so we washed the deck down with dish soap and saltwater which made it even more slippery. But we finally got it all under control and Capt.



Rob made another batch of Painkillers. We turned on the motor and headed back to Tortola. After about 1 ½ hour trip we were back in the harbor. The marina was REALLY full...so many new sailboats



had been delivered that it seemed every slip was full and the new boats were rafted up together in the harbor. But somehow, we secured a "front row" slip and a guy from the Moorings came onboard and backed us into our slip. Once we were tied up, Rachel, a boat worker who Rob & Donna knew from previous trips, came by and took a picture of the six of us on the boat. We enjoyed another

Happy Hour on board before we all started to pack up the boat and our suitcases. Bummer! We all enjoyed a great hot shower at the Moorings and then dinghied to town and walked to Pusser's for dinner. Susie used her cane for walking. Cindy, Dave, & Susie had Painkillers as they are said to have been invented at Pusser's.



Donna says that the Soggy Dollar Bar claims that title. Dave & Susie ordered a jerk meal to share-pork and chicken. Susie would not eat the pork as she thought it was too "jerky". Pusser's has a cute interior, but it is very noisy. Dave & Susie went right to bed when we arrived back at the boat.

Our provisions for the boat have worked out very well. There was not much waste at all. Susie & Dave brought back ¾ bottle of spiced rum. Capt. Rob has been fabulous making the Painkillers for us all on the boat and grating the fresh nutmeg on top of each one. It has been an excellent trip with many great adventures.

Thursday, 12/18/2014

The Moorings & the journey home



We had another big rain storm during the night and some suitcases that we had left out on the deck got a little wet. Around 7:30am someone from the Moorings came by to check with Rob about any difficulties or malfunctions on the boat. We had a 9:00am taxi departure to the ferry (\$5 each). We took the 10:00am ferry back to St. Thomas. While we were all standing in line, a guy noticed Susie's cane and helped her to pre-board. We sat upstairs on the ferry again. Susie noticed a guy on board with a Detroit Lions tee shirt and

she struck up a conversation with him. Chad is a professional sailor and races sailboats all over the world. We arrived and stored our luggage at the ferry area while we walked into Charlotte Amelia for lunch. We walked quite a distance trying to find a good place and then Dave recommended a place



where he had seen a sign for \$2.50 Buds. We walked upstairs to get to the restaurant called Tavern on the Waterfront and had a great lunch. Our waitress Stephanie was super nice and has done EVERYTHING! Dave & Susie remembered that they had been here



in the past for the bar. We walked back to the ferry station to get our luggage and a taxi back to the airport (\$10 each this time). The airport was its usual craziness with long lines for customs, etc. but we all made it through. Cindy, Eddie, Dave, & Susie had to pay \$25 each for each bag...quite the rip-off, since we had purchased our tickets through our new AA credit card and were promised that baggage was included.



A few thoughts on the trip...

This has been a fabulous trip. Everything went very smoothly and we all had a great time. Capt. Rob & Admiral Donna are excellent hosts, and very knowledgeable about all aspects of sailing in the BVI. Rob also made super Painkillers. The food was all delicious. The six of us all got along very well. Everyone pitched in on the work and learned a lot about sailing. We did bring way too many hats. We probably brought too many clothes, although Cindy wore just about everything she brought. We could have just had more swimsuits and cover-ups. Cindy & Susie bought "Reel Legends" clothing at Beall's which were super...quick drying and no wrinkles. Our new Keens shoes worked really well too.

Written by Susie Walsh

Published & Edited by Cindy Crane.

