

We Be Limin' ~ Virgin Islands Adventure ~ June 7-17, 2022

Tuesday, 6/7/22-We left our house at 5:45am and had a smooth trip over to Miami. Once there, it took us 3 tries to find the correct Marriott Courtyard to park our car. Once we finally parked, we took the van over to the airport, checked in, and got Cuban sandwiches which were way too large, so we took half on the plane with us for later. Boarding the plane was easy. Then we sat for 2 hours! The Captain came on the intercom several times with updates. It seems that the plane hit a bird on takeoff on the previous trip, so engineers had to inspect the nose of the plane for damage and reinstall it before we could take off. Once this was done, we were told that there was "weather" south of us. We finally backed away from the gate and there were 30 planes ahead of us in the cue! That took a long time, but we finally took off and had a smooth trip down to St. Thomas. As we landed, an announcement came on the intercom "Welcome to St. Thomas. The local time is 4:30pm". Damn, we just missed our 5pm ferry which was already paid for.... the last ferry of the day! As we taxied in everyone on the plane was checking their cell phones which all said it was 3:30pm. Sure enough, she finally came back on the intercom and said that it was only 3:30pm. We got off the plane and waited 1 hour for our one checked bag. This was going to be tight! However, we managed to get the very last 2 seats on a van to take us over to the ferry terminal where we paid another \$30 for our bag and caught our 5pm ferry to Roadtown, Tortola, BVI. We finally relaxed with a couple of Caribs on the ferry ride over. At the ferry dock in Tortola, it took a very long time to check in through immigration and customs. I have noticed that every time a "local" was in front of us in line, it took them about 4 times the amount of time to process. We finally got through this process and outside the smelly building (sargasso grass) and got the van to the Moorings. One other couple was with us in the van. During this very short ride, there were several big buses with lots of lights and a motorcycle with 2 people spun out right in front of one of these buses, but luckily, they were not run over. We finally arrived at the Moorings about 7:30pm! We were met by Rob & Donna who showed us to Windfall, our home for the next week. This is the very same boat that we had 3 years ago when we sailed around St. John with them. We all enjoyed Painkillers by our most excellent bartender, Rob, and then enjoyed a lovely dinner at Mariner Inn at the Moorings. Then it was back to the boat for more Painkillers before we went to bed for a great sleep.



Wednesday, 6/8/22- We woke up to a beautiful morning at the dock. The Royal Poinciana trees, known locally as Flamboyant trees, are in full bloom all over the islands. Rob & Eddie went to get more wine and rum for our journey while Cindy unpacked. We all had showers at the Moorings then departed the dock for our first sail over to **Great Harbor on Peter Island**. As we approached the water was very deep right up to almost the shoreline where it quickly got very shallow. Rob dropped the anchor as Donna was at the helm. Eddie's hat blew off into the water and he had to do our first rescue at sea. He said the water was very nice, but



there were strong currents here. There was a lovely breeze and we are the only sailboat here right now. Rob, Eddie, and Cindy took the dinghy over to Oceans 7 Yacht Club which is used when cruise ships are in Tortola. It was deserted right now. We took the dinghy over to the coral beach where there was a huge sign “Private Island, No Beach Access, No Trails, Keep Out”. We walked right under the sign and into the island a little way. The belongers who used to live here are all gone. There is construction up on the hill. The whole of Peter Island is owned by the family who owns Amway (Betsy DeVoss, the former Secretary of Education under Trump). We went back to the boat where we lounged away the afternoon- “we be limin”. Dinner tonight was pork loin, mashed potatoes and caramelized onions with wine. After dinner, Eddie and Rob enjoyed some brandy. There was another good night of sleep.



Thursday, 6/9/22- We awoke to another beautiful morning with a nice breeze. After breakfast we began our journey to our next destination. We were sailing to **Jost Van Dyke**, hoping to get a mooring ball in Great Harbor. This was an excellent sail with lot of wind and big swells...very exciting! We did a couple of tacs so we all got a chance to help with the lines. In Great Harbor all of the white mooring balls were taken so we went to “Plan B” and motored over to **Little Harbor** where we found a nice mooring ball in a spot with a very good breeze. Sydney’s Love & Peace and Harris Place are to our west and Abe’s is to our east. Captain Rob told us about the time, maybe 15 years ago, when there was a very big rivalry between Sydney and Harris and Sydney’s son shot and killed Harris with a speargun. He went to prison for a while. At that time

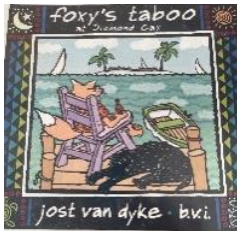


Cynthia, Harris’s daughter came back to the island from NYC to run Harris Place. So much for “peace and love” ...Donna made a delicious lunch of burritos from the pork leftovers. We relaxed after lunch, then took a dinghy over to **Sydney’s Love & Peace** for a couple of strong drinks. Strawberry, Sydney’s daughter, greeted us and brought our drinks. While we were sitting there Sydney Jr, came by and introduced himself. (The same one who shot Harris!). We came back to the boat, took showers and went to **Harris Place** for our 7:30pm dinner reservation. Cynthia was there to greet us and brought our food...Grouper, Snapper, BBQ Chicken, and Shrimp, all with a delicious soup and sweet rolls. We chatted with Cynthia and her friend Linda for a while. Linda told us that the Traveling Salesman, Nippy, who was her uncle and used to come by all the boats to make dinner reservations and collect mooring ball fees, has passed away. He was sick and she took him back to NYC for treatment, but he died. This has been a very interesting day spent enjoying the local culture.





Friday, 6/10/22-It is a lovely morning. The guy came around at 7am to collect our \$30 mooring fee, but Eddie told him we ate at Harris Place last night and Cynthia said we didn't have to pay. We had coffee on the deck and a small boat came by selling Empanadas, so we bought a lentil and a beef to share for breakfast. Today we are sailing to **Diamond Cay**. We finally managed to hook onto a mooring ball in the strong breeze. We took the dinghy to **Foxy Taboo** where Rob, Eddie, and Cindy hiked up to **Bubbly Pool**. This was such a fun experience for us where the waves rushed between the rocks into the pool filling it with bubbles. What fun!!



We came back and enjoyed a nice frozen drink at **Foxy Taboo** with Donna and then took the dinghy over to **Bee Line** for some beers. This has been a very nice day where we enjoyed three



new things we hadn't done before and we met nice people in all these places. We sailed off to **Great Harbor** in search of a ball and this time we lucked out as we got the very last mooring ball! We went ashore to explore and our first stop was **A & B** which had the coldest beers on Jost Van Dyke. We walked down to **Foxy's** where they were starting to cook their BBQ for tonight. Donna spotted Foxy sitting at a corner table with some friends. There were some people at the bar but no one in the restaurant yet. It will fill up later tonight as Foxy's is having their famous BBQ party. We



stopped in at **Ali Baba's** and Cindy bought a beautiful carved cat statue for Kim, our cat sitter while we are away. We talked with the artist, Bobby, who said it was carved from lignum vitae, a very dense wood found in this area. A lady was there who is married to Sydney, Jr and she said he was in a bad motorcycle accident a few years ago and is not right in the head. **Corsairs Bar** right next door is closed. We walked down to **Rudy's**, which is now run by his son Randy. We found nothing to buy there so we walked back to the dinghy dock and stopped by a roadside stall where Linda, from last night at Harris Place, was helping out the baker Carmen. We bought a loaf of the most expensive banana bread on the planet. We got some ice and then went back to the boat. Dinner tonight was steaks, Rotis, rice, and salad...delicious!

Saturday, 6/11/22- We had coffee and banana bread for breakfast and took a taxi over to White Bay. We got chairs in the shade right on the beach in front of **Soggy Dollar**, the world-famous bar. Cindy had to have a breakfast Painkiller here as the story goes that this drink was invented



here. It was good, but not as good as Capt. Rob's. We then walked down the beach and stopped in at **Seddy's One Love** where the Bushwhacker drink was invented, so of course Cindy had to have one. Our taxi driver picked us up at 12:30pm and we went back to the boat to begin our



trip over to **Norman Island**. The wind was very strong today and coming right on our nose, so we motored the whole way. We arrived at The Bight and managed to get a mooring ball, difficult as it was with the very strong gusty winds. **Willie T** is the famous bar that is moored here. There are quite a few balls here and quite a few boats. But like everywhere else, they are mostly "cats" and we are one of the very few monohulls. We had beers and Dark & Stormy's. We decided to go over for a drink on the Willie T and scope it out for dinner later. We stayed for several drinks and dinner. There were quite a few people jumping and diving off the 2nd deck, more than I had ever seen before. Dinner of Chicken Roti, Bee Stung Chicken and Yellow Fin Tuna was delicious. We came back to the boat with no problems. The wind was till howling at around 20 knots with big gusts. My hair was tied in knots! It was early to bed tonight.



Sunday, 6/12/22- We awoke to another beautiful morning but with very gusty winds. This wind, it can blow the hair right off your head! We finished off the most expensive banana bread on the planet for breakfast, got cleaned up, and ready to start our day. This is sort of a sad day for Rob & Donna as today will be their last sail. They have been coming down to BVI sailing for 30 years and have owned a boat in the BVI for 22 years. Their boat is sold and this is the end of an era. We took the dinghy over to **Pirate Bight** for Cindy's morning Bushwhacker. Rob & Eddie had



“Greenies”-Heineken beers. We came back to Windfall for lunch of leftover Rotis from last night. Yummy! We dropped our mooring ball and headed out for our last sail back to the Moorings. As we got ready to leave there is a big power cat



with some BVI virgins. They were so excited to get their very first mooring ball...all celebrating and yelling. It will be a fun night at Willie T’s tonight. We had a great sail back to the **Moorings** and got in our slip-on **B Dock #26**. We had a celebratory rum drink, walked up to the grocery store for a few more things for dinner tonight because Rob didn’t want to have eggs for dinner. We all took turns in the shower and then packed up a lot of our stuff.

Dinner tonight was Penne pasta with Bolognese sauce and a salad. We had chocolates for dessert.



Monday, 6/13/22- After a nice night of air-conditioned sleep, we had the excellent quiche that Donna prepared last night. We finished packing and prepared to check out of the boat @ noon. The dock was very busy with boats arriving and boats leaving. The crew from one big cat was leaving to go home and the guests gave us a bottle of Champaign which we enjoyed as a final toast. They also gave us a case of Diet Coke which we will use later in the trip.



We were waiting for the 2:30pm taxi from Moorings to the ferry dock where we had pre purchased tickets for the 3:30pm ferry to St. John. While we waited in the lobby, a lady asked us if it would be alright to take the earlier 1:30pm taxi as he was here and ready to leave and we decided to do this. As we arrived at the ferry dock, we were told that the St. John ferry had already left, no more were scheduled for today. We would have to take the ferry back

to St. Thomas, then take the taxi ride over the island to Redhook and then take the Redhook ferry to St. John. This was our only option and we had to leave in the next 2 minutes. Our very nice taxi driver from the Moorings was calling and trying to see if there were any other options, but to no avail. So, we bought more tickets and hurriedly boarded the ferry back to St. Thomas. This was a very exciting ride as this ferry was plowing through some very large waves. We arrived, got through customs, and took a taxi driven by Basil to Redhook, where we arrived just in time for the 5pm ferry to St. John. So far, in spite of this SNAFU, we have been pretty lucky with this adventure. We were picked up by a driver from The Hills. When they say “The Hills” they really mean it. We are staying in a villa at the top of a mountain. The roads are very, very steep and skinny. One spot is called Jacob’s Ladder and is one of the steepest roads I have



traveled on. Our villa is **Cocoplum Villa at The Hills in Cruz Bay**. It is a very beautiful 3-bedroom 3.5 bath home, beautifully appointed and amazing views. We had a couple of “Dumb & Riots” (Rum & Diet Coke) on the deck overlooking a fabulous sunset. We walked down to the **Clubhouse** for pizza and nachos dinner then back home for more wine. There was a really beautiful sunset tonight.



Tuesday, 6/14/22- St. John is a very beautiful island with many Flamboyant trees and Bougainvillea all in full bloom. We had no coffee or breakfast this morning as we need to make a stop at a grocery store and one does not do this lightly when you are staying at the top of the mountain. We had to call a taxi every time we wanted to go somewhere. We had a hard time getting a taxi to come up to get us this morning but finally got a ride down to start our retail therapy at **Mongoose Station**. We then walked up to **Tap & Still** for enormous burgers, fries, and beers. We then stopped in at **Pink Papaya** for shopping and met a lady named Sandy who was BFF with our old neighbor Diane Troester. What a small world it is! After a little more shopping and walking about, the food coma started to kick in. We had been used to the great breezes on the sailboat which made the temperature very pleasant and this heat was getting to us. Donna and Cindy walked back to

Mongoose Station to the deli and bought some salads and pastries. Rob & Eddie walked to the market for coffee, creamer, pastries and more beer. We got a taxi, which this time was like an open trolley, for our ride up the steep hills to our villa. Some of the beers got loose from Rob’s

bag and rolled to the back. Luckily the other taxis riders caught them for us. We relaxed after our big adventure and had an excellent dinner tonight of salads from the deli, and much wine.



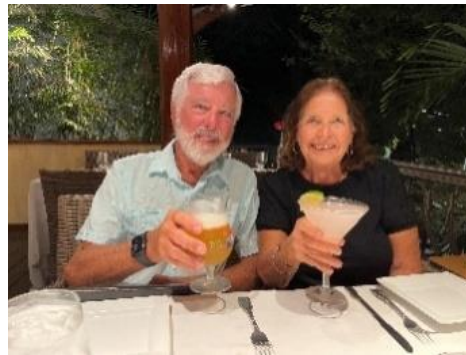
Wednesday, 6/15/22- We enjoyed a relaxing breakfast at the villa. We had thought of going to the beach today, but the weather was cloudy and hazy so we just limed away the morning. We took a taxi drive down into town for Happy Hour and dinner. This was the nicest taxi and also the best price so far with Chico. We started our Happy Hour at **High Tide Bar** with 2 drinks each. Then we went over to **Lovango Rum Bar** where we had exotic craft cocktails. Donna and Cindy both had Blackbeard's Killa, which was very good. Eddie had the most amazing drink called Skull Fracture. It took the bartender, Milton, several minutes to concoct this drink and then it was put into a glass box and smoked with Hickory wood smoke, then presented to Eddie in the smoky glass box. This was the most delicious drink we ever tasted. This was such a new and fun experience and especially since it was Happy Hour. There was a nice reggae singer on the deck overlooking the bay. Loved this fun place! We went over to 420 for dinner, but the waitress said they were out of fries and it was cash only, so we just had a beer each and walked over to **The Beach Bar** for dinner. Ed and Rob had tuna bites, Donna had shrimp tacos, and Cindy had fish fingers and fries. The food was delicious. We took another taxi back up the mountain and Cindy & Donna had a dance party.



Thursday, 6/16/22- Sadly, this is our last full day on this trip. Today is Rob & Donna's anniversary and we are going out to a very nice restaurant tonight to celebrate. We had a very light breakfast and then went down to the pool area for a little more limin' time. So far, we have seen



3 cats at the resort...white with black spots, orange, and grey tiger. We got sandwiches from the **Clubhouse** and enjoyed these at the pool.



After more limin' we got cleaned up and took a taxi down to **Morgan's Mango** for a delicious last supper. Donna had the most delicious Coconut panko crusted grouper. Ed

and Rob had Lomo with chimichurri. Cindy had Corvina fish, the specialty that night. We shared a delicious Empanada and a Key lime pie for dessert. This was a wonderful night and our taxi driver took us all the way up the mountain and all the way down our steep driveway to our villa.

Friday, 6/17/22- This morning we finished packing and got our taxi from the villa to the ferry dock. We took the 10am ferry to Redhook ferry terminal on St. Thomas. Hurry up and wait! In the islands, your life relies on the ferry boat schedules to get anywhere. We relaxed at the Redhook ferry terminal with some breakfast beers and then took a taxi ride across St. Thomas to Charlotte Amalie airport. We arrived at the airport and began the nightmare of check-in. This is actually one of the only airports where it really does make sense to arrive 3 hours before your flight as it can take almost that long to get through check-in. We used one of the few self-check-in machines that was working. But then there was total chaos as so very many people arrived here at once and the waiting line wrapped around the entire front of the terminal. When you check in here, your bags are not really checked in and you must schlep them through the very long lines. We finally made it to the inside of the building and through security. Of course, security had to go through my carryon bag because of the wooden statue I had bought for Kim. Ed and Cindy shared a cheeseburger and fries and a beer...very expensive from **Hibiscus Café**. We had another hour to wait to board our flight, but luckily, we finally boarded. We heard that over 4,500 flights were cancelled today. It was an uneventful flight, except that Cindy had the kid from hell in the seat behind her who screamed and kicked her seat the whole time. After our arrival in Miami, we got our bags very quickly and got a van to our car. Our two-hour drive across the Everglades to Marco Island was uneventful and we arrived home before 11pm.

This has been another wonderful adventure with our dear friends to a place that is very special to us all. We are sad that this is probably our last sailing adventure in BVI, but we are very grateful that we got to enjoy "living the dream" one more time.

Written by *Cindy Crane*



