

Passage Notes *Cruising World*



Like so many other cruisers, Marcie & David Lynn realized that life was too short to remain caught up in the corporate frenzy they called everyday life. David's lifelong dream of "selling up and sailing off" was contagious and it didn't take much persuasion for Marcie to share the vision. In Spring 2000, they quit their jobs, sold their house, cars and furniture and bought "Nine of Cups", a 1986 Bob Perry-design Liberty 458 cutter. "Nine of Cups", by the way, is a tarot card signifying "dreams realized".

From Kemah, Texas across the Gulf to the Keys and up the Eastern seaboard to Canada's maritime provinces, they began to live the dream, but soon decided the world was too big to stay stateside. In Winter 2002, they left Charleston, SC (their favorite east coast port) and began their trek southeast along the thorny path to Trinidad, intent on visiting as many destinations as possible. They managed to visit 17 countries in 6 months and included innumerable small islands like San Salvador, Grand Turk, Saba, Statia and many of the tiny Grenadines, finally arriving in Trinidad in late August.

After a couple month's respite, they headed west enjoying Venezuela's out islands for 4 months

before heading on to the ABCs and Colombia. They both agree, without a doubt, that Cartagena, Colombia is the most beautiful city they've encountered in all their travels. From Colombia they moved on to Panama's San Blas Islands to explore the world of the Kunas. A Panama Canal transit in September 2003 opened a whole new world of the Pacific Ocean to them. After a visit to Islas Las Perlas and time on the Rio Tuira in the notorious jungle of the Darien Gap, they headed south to Ecuador. "We've put about 14,000 miles under the keel and we've barely begun", they assert. Where now?

"Our plans are always written in jello, but the 'plan du jour' for the upcoming season is to head west to the Galapagos, then to Easter and make a big circle back to Chile via the Juan Fernandez Islands. There's too much to see and experience in South America to leave so soon."

The long range plan is a slow and thorough world circumnavigation with out of the way destinations on the itinerary. "Since we began cruising, it has been our goal to circumnavigate" says David. "In the beginning, when people asked us how long it would take, we always responded 10 years. Now 4 years later, our answer hasn't changed...we still think it'll take another 10 years."

Follow Nine of Cups' progress on their website:
www.nineofcups.com

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s/v Nine of Cups

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