



Passages

s/y Nine of Cups

A Holiday Newsletter from Sea

Volume 16
Holiday 2016 Edition



Letter from the crew....

2016, our 16th year aboard? Really? It's all gone by in a flash and we sometimes wonder where all the time went. Thank goodness we write blogs, keep journals and take lots of photos, otherwise we'd be sorely challenged to figure out just where we've been and what we've done for nearly two decades.

We'd left Nine of Cups in Trinidad at last year's end and returned to her in the early springtime. After lots of boat work and projects, we began the passage home. Cups had not been in American waters since 2007 and we were looking forward to being back in the USA once again.



SSCA Gam - November 2016
Photo: Burger Zapf

We've had lots of adjustments to make now that we're back. I find myself forgetting that we don't have to provision for three months at a time ... there are always grocery stores nearby. We have internet and phone service quite regularly and everyone speaks English.

As always, as we near the end of the year, our thoughts turn to the upcoming year and we wonder what adventures and challenges 2017 will hold for us. Plans? Well, we' really haven't made any. Downeast Maine and Maritime Canada seem appealing, but I guess we'll wait to see which way the wind blows and take it from there. Whatever we end up doing, we know it'll be wonderful and we hope you'll continue to sail along with us.

Highlights of 2016:

- ★ *A Land Anchor in the Desert*
- ★ *Touring in Trinidad*
- ★ *America's Oldest City*
- ★ *Wending Our Way up the ICW*
- ★ *Up the Potomac to Washington, DC*
- ★ *An Unparalleled Honor*

Detailed stories follow

Chesapeake, Virginia ... Cups' New Home

As you read this, Cups is tied up securely at the Atlantic Yacht Basin (AYB) at the end of the IntraCoastal Waterway (ICW) in Chesapeake, VA. We'll rejoin her just after the holidays.



*Nine of Cups- Moored Washington Channel, D.C.
Washington Monument in the background*

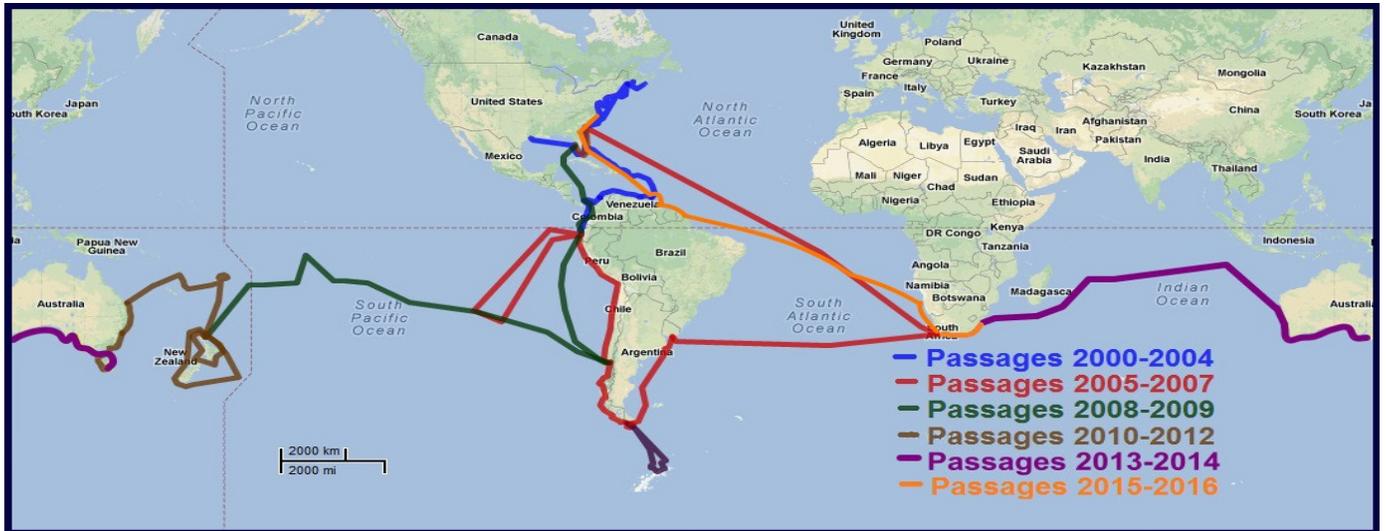
Just A Little Further...4 Years and Counting

Just a Little Further *It's Not Just Travel...
It's Our Lifestyle*



Columbus Day 2016 marked the fourth anniversary of our blog, www.justalittlefurther.com. That's beaucoup blogs about so many topics we can't begin to list them all. The pleasure of sharing our travel and adventures with so many people makes it even more wonderful. Big kudos to our niece, Gentry, in New Mexico. We live it; we write it; but she makes it happen.

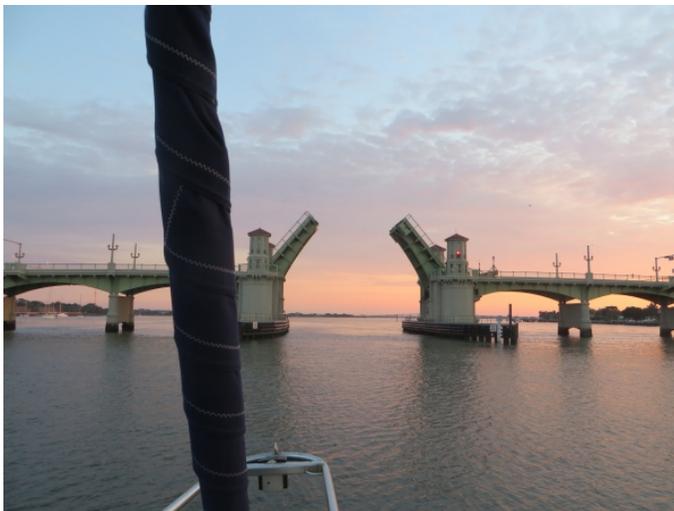
2016 ... Home Again



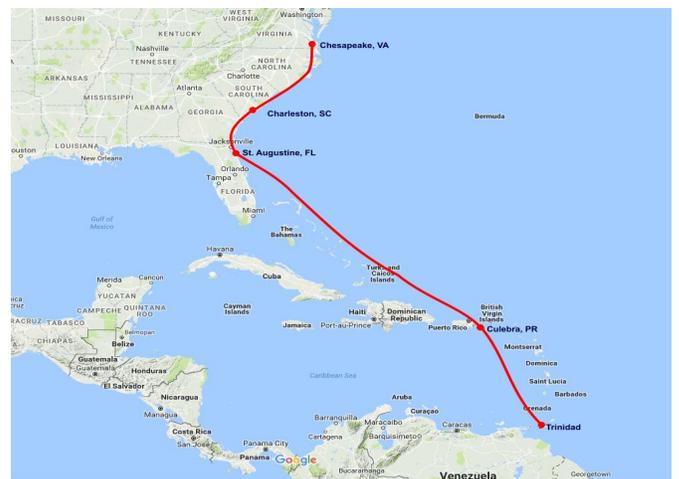
Passage Route 2016

We spent more time on land than at sea this year. After celebrating the holidays with family, we purchased a new family home in Las Vegas in February. We returned to Trinidad in March to find Cups with newly painted topsides. She looked fabulous, but David still had lots more projects to complete. In April, we took a week-long break while Lin visited us and we played tourist on the island. Projects finally completed, we departed Trinidad in May and sailed directly to Culebra, Puerto Rico where we were able to check in with US Customs and Immigration and re-enter the USA. We enjoyed a few days at anchor, then, with hurricane season looming, we headed north through the infamous Bermuda Triangle to our first port-of-call in mainland USA since 2007... St. Augustine, Florida.

St. Augustine is a wonderful city and was a great place for some R&R and boat chores. After a close call with an early tropical storm, we wended our way up the IntraCoastal Waterway (ICW) through northern Florida, Georgia, the Carolinas and into Virginia. We'd never really spent time on the ICW and found it to be not only interesting, but quite pleasant so late in the season with few other boats and lots of convenient places to drop the hook and sleep each evening. We decided to leave Cups for the summer in the capable hands of the folks at the Atlantic Yacht Basin (AYB), a good hurricane hole at the end of the ICW. We returned for six weeks in Sept/Oct for a little exploring excursion up the Potomac River into Washington, DC. Hurricane Matthew chased us down the Chesapeake to AYB once again, where Nine of Cups waits patiently for our return.



The Bridge of Lions, St. Augustine, FL – June 2016



Toting up the Miles for 2016

We had a so-so year for sailing miles, but still enjoyed ourselves.

Nautical Miles Sailed 2015: 2,781
 Nautical Miles Since 2000: 89,705



A Land Anchor in the Desert

What? A house? In Las Vegas? In the middle of the Mojave Desert? Cacti on the front lawn? Yup ... it was a surprise for us, too.



The new house in Las Vegas

We probably couldn't get much further away from the sea, but the object was to be closer to David's mom and family and buying a house that was close to Rebecca and could accommodate all of the sibs, including us, seemed to be the answer. This "experiment in sibling-ship" seems to be working out just fine.



*A new broom for the new house!
From left: David's sisters, Karen and Mary, and Marcie*

New House Projects Galore

Heaven forbid, David should be idle! A new house means new projects. Furniture moving, new lighting in the kitchen, updated sprinkler system, landscaping ... David and his brother, Paul, dug right in. The pièce de resistance were these new elevated garden planters with pergola. Mary and Karen are planning to plant vegetables and herbs this Spring.



Elevated planters in progress à la the Lynn Brothers

Farewell, Rebecca



*Rebecca Jane Haynes
Oct 19, 1917-Dec 3, 2016*

We also had some sad times in 2016. David's 99-year-old mom was strong and feisty, but her age and declining health finally took their toll. After a wonderful October birthday as well as Hallowe'en and Thanksgiving celebrations with us, she passed on December 3rd, 2016. A life well-lived ... a woman well-loved. We'll miss her.

Touring Trinidad

We had planned to meet Lin in Bonaire last year, but Nine of Cups required more work than anticipated and we never made it. Instead, Lin flew in April to meet us in Trinidad. We took a break from boat work and enjoyed being tourists for a week.



Waterfall at Asa Wright Nature Centre, Trinidad

During our last two stays in Trinidad, we concentrated primarily on boat work. Though David worked hard on Nine of Cups this past Spring, Lin's visit was the perfect opportunity to really see the countryside. We traveled north, south, east and west and really got a good feel for Trinidad and her people.

Hindu Temples, Benedictine Tea & Scarlet Ibis



Hindu Temple by the Sea

From Hindu temples and giant statues to formal afternoon tea at the Mount St. Benedictine Monastery, to scarlet ibis viewing in the Caroni Swamp, we filled the week with interesting and fun activities that took us all over the island.

Culebra, Puerto Rico



Hector the Protector sculpture in Dewey, Culebra, PR

We spent a few days in the tiny town of Dewey on the island of Culebra, Puerto Rico. We wandered the streets and trails to stretch our legs and re-provision before heading north through the Bermuda Triangle to St. Augustine, Florida.

America's Oldest City

St. Augustine ... City of Lions, first discovered by Ponce de Leon in 1513 (though the local inhabitants already knew it was there) while looking for the famed Fountain of Youth. We'd stopped briefly in America's oldest city before, but never spent much time there. After the trip from Trinidad via Puerto Rico, we were more than happy to spend a few weeks on a mooring and enjoy the local sights. Everything is convenient to the marina and there's lots to see and do. The highlights were the Lightner Museum and concerts on the green.



Lions stand sentry - Bridge of Lions, St. Augustine, FL

Wending our Way North on the ICW



An osprey makes its nest on an ICW channel marker

Nine of Cups has made the passage north from Florida several times in the past, but always on the "outside" around Cape Hatteras. On the trip from St. Augustine north, we got tired of waiting for weather windows and finally decided to try the IntraCoastal Waterway (ICW), a well-protected and charted inland passage along the US east coast. The depths were a challenge for Cups' 7-foot draft and though we soft-grounded a few times, the trip for the most part was uneventful. The best parts? Sunrises, sunsets and the birdlife ... absolutely outstanding.



Sunrise on Georgia's Crescent River

Please keep in touch ...

Email us: nineofcups1@yahoo.com
See our blog for stories, comments and position updates at: www.justalittlefurther.com
Visit our our website: www.nineofcups.com

An Unparalleled Honor

We were invited to give presentations this year at the annual Seven Seas Cruising Assn (SSCA) gam in November. David delivered an hour long presentation on anchors and anchoring. Marcie participated in the Women's Forum and we both presented the Saturday evening's keynote address. It was honor enough to be invited to speak, but to our amazement, we were also awarded the Seven Seas Award, the most prestigious and acclaimed award that SSCA offers. What a thrill!



SSCA Award – November 2016- Melbourne, FL

Old friends, kids and gators



Yup, lots of gators near the golf courses

While in Florida for the gam, we also got a chance to catch up with old cruising friends, visit Brennan and Hannah's new house in St. Petersburg as well as get a chance to meet some of Florida's local inhabitants including sandhill cranes and gators.

Visiting the Nation's Capital

We left Cups alone for a few months during the summer months while we caught up with family, then returned to her in Sept/Oct for six weeks. David's brother, Paul, joined us as we made our way into Chesapeake Bay and headed up the historic Potomac River.



Heading through the locks at Great Bridge

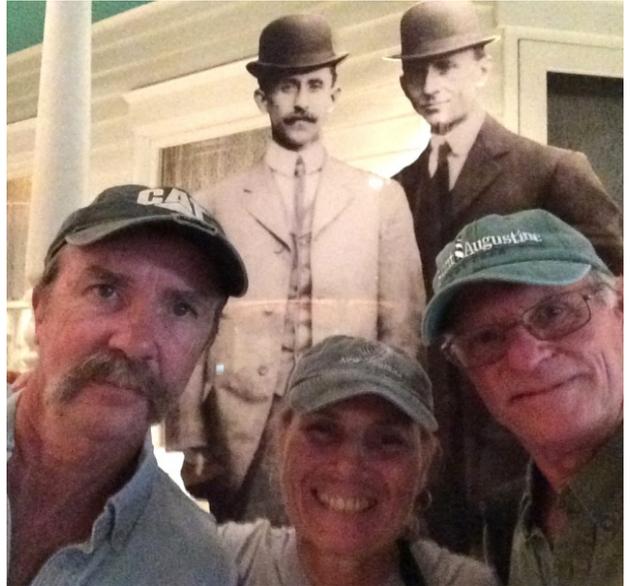
We took our time and enjoyed several stops and anchorages along the way including a wonderful couple of days at George Washington's Mount Vernon. The greatest thrill, however, was being moored a stone's throw from the National Mall in Washington, D.C.



David and Paul heading for a Capitol tour

We visited six of the Smithsonian's outstanding museums plus memorials, monuments, tours of the Capitol, Library of Congress and Bureau of Engraving and Printing (no samples allowed). It's definitely a walking city. We walked for miles and miles and never saw it all. What a fantastic city ... all within a stone's throw from the boat. Made us proud to be Americans!

As always, our time ran short and we were in a hurry to return to AYB to put Nine of Cups to bed for the winter and return to Las Vegas to celebrate Rebecca's 99th birthday.



Nine of Cups crew at Smithsonian's Air & Space Museum

We plan to return to Nine of Cups in time to celebrate New Year's Day 2017 aboard. As always, we wish you health, wealth, peace and love in the year ahead ... and the time to enjoy them all.

***WISHING YOU THE HAPPIEST
OF HOLIDAYS AND A
PROSPEROUS 2017!***

Marcie and David

