



INFORMATION... on the cruising lifestyle

Bay Yacht Agency Group

Bay Views
NEWSLETTER

Bay Yacht Agency 326 First St. Annapolis, MD 21403 410-263-2311 info@bayacht.com



Gail & David Funk had their boat in our Boat, "Fifth Season", in our Boat-As-A-Business program in order to gain experience and equity. After about 5 years in the program they hung it all up and went cruising. Their plan is similar to many that join our program—though not everyone commits to fully living aboard. I've published previous articles by them—in this article, they spent most of 06 in Ecuadorian waters. Gail writes...

"As we approach the end of 2006, we think about our experiences over the last year and rejoice in the life we're leading. Over the last year our feet have touched four different continents: North America, South America, Africa and Antarctica.

The photo of the two of us was taken in Namibia.

Fifth Season has been in Ecuadorian waters for over a year now - the longest stay in one country since we moved aboard. We have continued our vagabond existence by traveling by bus and plane, leaving the boat in the care of the wonderful staff at Puerto Amistad (PWEHR-toh ah-mee-STAHHD) in Bahía de Caraquez (bah-EE-yah day cah-RAH-kehsh). Amistad means friendship and we've found a lot of it there.



We look back fondly on our trip on the square-rigged Bark Europa which brought us from Argentina to Antarctica and then on to South Africa. The second photo shows Gail and some friendly king penguins communing on the beach with the Europa in the background. Even though we speak of Antarctica as a once in a lifetime adventure, we can't help hoping that we might visit again one day.



We painted the bottom of Fifth Season on the beach in Bahía. For four days in a row, we woke up early in the morning before the tide reached its highest point.

We motored to a long, gently sloping section of the beach and David gently nudged the front of the bows onto the sand. As the water level fell, David used the motors to keep the boat facing straight onto shore. Once the water was low enough that the hulls were firmly sitting on the sand, David cut the motors and we waited a couple of hours for the water level to drop so the entire boat was exposed, as in the third photo. We then

had six hours to work until the rising water touched the boat and painting had to stop.



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After a couple more hours the rising water floated us off the sand and we returned to our mooring for the night.

This year marked a milestone for Gail's parents as they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on November 3rd. We returned to Duluth to celebrate with them and got to spend time with almost the entire family. A group this size usually has to apply for a permit to gather! We stayed in Duluth for deer hunting season and David got a license and gave hunting a go. He got to spend a lot of time out in the woods, see deer and get a shot off, but we had to leave Duluth before he bagged one.

With David's sister, Marcia, and her husband, Evan, we visited David's son, Alex, in Iowa City. That family gathering fits into one car, but is almost as challenging to bring together as Gail's clan. We had a terrific time watching Alex perform in the play "Red Noses" at the University of Iowa. Our apologies to our friends in Iowa as time was insufficient to visit.



We're back in Ecuador pursuing our newest passion - paragliding. In this sport you are strapped into a harness that is connected to an oblong, steerable parachute. You go to the top of a hill, walking up wearing a large back-pack holding your 30-plus pounds of gear. If you're lucky, a car can get to the top and you get a ride instead. On the hill you don your gear and raise the glider overhead by pulling on lines coming down to the harness (the fourth photo shows Gail practicing this on the beach). Next, you run until the

glider lifts you off the ground and you are flying. You then steer the glider to where there is air rising - along a ridge, under a forming cumulus cloud, over a patch of hot, dry land surrounded by greenery. The more rising air you find, the longer you get to continue flying. The fifth photo shows David soaring at sunset, stretching out his flight for as long as there's enough light to land safely. It is thrilling to soar with the hawks, pelicans, frigate birds and even the vultures.



We plan to start sailing in February. We'll head to the Galapagos first, hoping to spend several weeks there. Next we'll have a three-week sail to either the Marquesas or the Gambiers (via Easter Island and Pitcairn Island) - we haven't come to a decision yet.

Then we choose among Tuamotu, the Society Islands (including Tahiti), the Cook Islands, Samoa, Tonga and Fiji. Last of all, we'll make our way to New Zealand, hopefully by next November. We would love to have visitors and welcome vacation requests to help our decision-making.



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We hope this holiday season finds you loving your lives as much as we do ours!"

Love, Gail & David