

Sue & Tim Metcalf
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December 2018

When we left you last year, we were looking forward to an eight-day trip to Seattle. We had a great time there with Chris, Sarah, and Slone. We saw Santa, went swimming, and ate too much. Slone even got to top the Christmas tree with same star that we used with Chris.

As is our habit, in February we flew to Florida for the Miami Boat Show. Tim enjoys the show because he gets to meet with the engineers. After the show we spent a couple of days touring the Florida Keys as far south as Islamorada. We even toured the History of Diving Museum, which we thoroughly enjoyed.

Unfortunately, Sue's brother Bill passed away from prostate cancer in March, at age 66. A bright spot for all of us happened in January when Chris and Slone flew out to visit. His memorial service, in April, was joyous and memorable. It even ended with a "conga line" inspired by the movie "The Birdcage."

This was our 28th season with "Insatiable," our 1984 C&C 41 sloop. We spent the July 4th weekend in Port Sanilac, for their parade and excellent fireworks display. Although we didn't sail her as much as we might have liked, we're not going to give her up until Slone gets to do some quality sailing on her.

Just after Labor Day Tim's niece Erin was married on Block Island, off the Rhode Island coast from Newport. The whole family was there, and it was a very special day for all of us.

Our parents are still going strong. Tim's Mom turned 88 this year. We saw her in March for Palm Sunday at Tim's sister's house, and she and her companion John joined us for Thanksgiving. Sue's Mom is turning 92 in December. We've seen her several times this year.

Sue's horse treat business, The ClintRMint Company, is having an excellent year. She went to the Michigan Horse Expo in March for the 3rd year. In July, for the first time, she was a sponsor at the Great Lakes Equestrian Festival, in Traverse City. She has several new sales outlets and she is baking like a fiend as the holidays approach.

Sue's embroidery business is busier than ever. This year she acquired a new (used) sewing machine configured only to put the overlapped edge on patches. This will give her an entry into a new niche business, one that Chris says he can help her exploit.

Tim's marine electronics business had its best year ever. He had the opportunity to install several complete systems, which is always exciting. One of his more interesting customers was the "Appledore IV," a 65-foot schooner that sails out of Bay City.

Tim had a couple of nautical adventures this year. Just after the Block Island wedding in September he helped a friend of ours take his 48-foot sailboat from Buffalo to Annapolis to be sold. The trip included the Erie Canal, the Hudson River, the Atlantic Ocean, and the Delaware Bay. The boat has since been sold and our friend has a new 58-foot trawler.

In late October, Tim joined the crew of "Shenanigans," an Amel Super Maramu 53, on an 11-day trip to Antigua. He describes the trip as "challenging." It included a 4-day, 700nm, leg south in 20-knot winds. Fortunately, he got home in time for the family Thanksgiving celebration.

As we write this we're looking forward to Christmas. Sarah, Chris, and Slone are joining us from Seattle. Richie and Marsh Wait, Sarah's parents, will also be here. The last time this happened we learned that Sarah was pregnant. While we don't expect that this year, we know that it will be a memorable occasion.

We wish you and yours a joyous holiday season and hope that you will join us if you are in our area.

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