

Sent: Sunday, April 05, 2009 9:39 PM

Subject: C-Life from Beaufort, South Carolina

Hello from South Carolina, after almost 4 months in Florida. What a large waterfront Florida has, and now we are already past Georgia.

We left Palm Coast on March 23, and traveled past Marineland, which was built in 1938, Fort Matanzas, built by Spanish settlers around 1765 to guard St. Augustine from backdoor enemies, and St. Augustine to an anchorage referred to as Pine Island. Almost daily we are observing white pelicans, and bald eagles. We decided to bypass America's oldest city of St. Augustine this time because we had stopped there several times in the past, including staying there a week in 2006 when we purchased *C-Life*. Most enjoyable, just after passing St. Augustine, was watching 5 U.S. Customs boats training. All of the customs boats were high performance, three of them sporting four 225 horsepower Mercury outboard motors each. We then proceeded by Jacksonville, Fernando Beach, and St. Mary's to a wonderful anchorage behind Cumberland Island, Georgia. This island is just north of the St. Mary's River, which is the border between Florida and Georgia. We actually left Florida at 3:00 pm on March 24. Cumberland Island is a primitive undeveloped island preserved by the National Park Service as the Cumberland Island National Seashore which was the home of the Timucuan Indians some 3000 years ago. On the island is the ruins of one of the Carnegie family estates named Dungeness, built in 1898. From anchorage we took our dingy ashore for a walking tour of the island. In addition to the 1898 estate ruins were horses which were released when the island was turned over the National Parks, oak trees, Spanish moss, armadillos, yes armadillos, and miles of natural forest and beaches. Additionally, while anchored behind Cumberland Island, we observed three nuclear submarines going and coming from Kings Bay Submarine Base on the Cumberland Sound. When we left the Cumberland Island anchorage we traveled by the Submarine Base, on our way past Jekyll Island, Brunswick, and made our next stop at Golden Isles Marina, at St. Simons Island, Georgia.

At Golden Isles Marina we met Gail and Gene on their new Endeavour Powercat *Nightingale*. They purchased their boat in Clearwater, Florida, are traveling north to the Chesapeake Sound, and plan to do the LOOP starting in two years. They are still traveling with us. While at St. Simons Island Kay spotted a bird that we had not seen before, a wood stork, what a treat. While traveling around the island, using a loaner car from the marina, we stopped at Christ Church, which was established by Charles and John Wesley, which established Methodism. By the way, Golden Isles Marina delivers muffins and a newspaper to the boat each morning at about 7:30.

From Golden Isles Marina we traveled across Altamaha, Doboy, and St. Catherine's Sounds, about half way across Georgia to Kilkenny Marina, at Richmond Hill. There isn't a lot to say about Kilkenny Marina except it is in the middle of nowhere and is the first location on our entire trip, since leaving North Carolina last year, that we have had to use the ThermaCell insect repellent for sand gnats (no-see-ums)! Actually, there is

more. Bob at the marina, gave Kay some live shrimp, and yes, she caught fish, whiting. Also, as we were leaving the next morning, we talked on the radio with the cousin of Rick Johnstone, a friend of ours back home in Southport. What a small world!

Next stop was Isle of Hope Marina, south of Savannah, Georgia, and another bald eagle was spotted. Three miles south of Isle of Hope we crossed the Moon River. "Moon River" the song, written about this location, was made famous by songwriter Johnny Mercer, composer Henry Mancini, and singer Andy Williams. We used the marina loaner car to make a trip to West Marine, Wal-Mart, and a great restaurant, pretty routine for stops that we make.

Next was on to the downtown waterfront of Savannah, Georgia, where we stayed for four days, what a great stop. On the way up the Savannah River we passed by Old Fort Jackson, Georgia's oldest brick fortification, built in 1808, and a National Historic Landmark. This site has been in use since the 1740's and possesses a history of defense of Savannah through the end of the 19th century. We took a tour of Savannah, seeing the many parks, churches, and historic buildings of the city. We docked right on the riverfront where ships and tugboats passed very close by throughout the day and night. For lunch one day we went to Mrs. Wilke's Boarding House on Jones Street. When we were seated at the table, there were 23 dishes of everything from fried chicken to stewed squash and turnips. Then desert of banana pudding and blueberry cobbler was served, WOW! Each evening the street performers would gather in the park beside our boats, and when we were leaving on Saturday they were setting up for a craft fair.

When leaving Savannah and the Savannah River, Kay spotted two bald eagles sitting atop the same pole. That was truly a first, and what a sight! Not long after we turned off the Savannah River Kay spotted a large alligator sunning on the riverbank.

We are now in South Carolina, entering at 9:45 am on April 4, and the first stop is Beaufort. Again we used the loaner car, went to K-Mart, the grocery store, and McDonalds, our pretty traditional outings. Then, the ladies took time to visit the shops close to the waterfront at Beaufort. It has been raining this evening, and the forecast is much colder weather in the next few days as we make our way toward Charleston. Maybe we have decided to move north to soon!

Robert & Kay
C-Life

Photos: Us on Cumberland Island, Customs Boats, Armadillo, Cumberland Island Road, Savannah Fountain, Submarine