

**Darramy on tour No 11: Bonaire, Colorado and Curacao**  
**February 2009 – June 2009**

Bon Bini Amigunan

Well what's been going on our side of the world since we last wrote one of these? Read on and find out, but life is not as exotic as some of you sometimes suggest!

We left Bonaire for the USA, leaving Darramy in the Marina, after a Sushi night on Malarkey. My thoughts on Sushi are fairly unprintable, but one tuna, a load of rice, hours of waiting really got to me, I have always like my food, but waiting hours, for a bit of rice and a smattering of fish didn't do much, I was about to send out for a Pizza to top up. At the end much Tuna was left, I think that in the parable of the loaves and fishes, they forgot to mention the rice, as only 5 loaves 3 fishes and a sack of rice could have possibly fed 5000 people. OK, that my Sushi grouse out of the way.

We flew to Denver Colorado where we were met by Adrian and Jan off S/V Squander, who happened to be living in a Camper Van (RV) in Breckenridge. A few weeks skiing were in order, after getting kitted out it was time to hit the slopes. Sue had only skied a small amount, so a lot of time was spent on the easier slopes, with instruction from yours truly and Adrian, she did quite well. We were joined a few days later by Roger & Vickie (S/V El Vagabond), So we were all set for a good time, The resort was excellent, and the Americans certainly worked hard to ensure you enjoyed their



country, or even "you had a great day!" it's a shame some of our European ski resorts can't do the same.

We stayed in a lovely chalet Adrian had found, so we were able to spread out and be comfortable after living in 40 foot of space, it was a good treat. Any way all was

going well, I managed to meet up with the Ski Club GB and skied with them a couple of times. Sue went to Keystone one day and sadly had a disaster, skiing down she fell and to cut a long story short, ended up between a ditch and a wall. Result, the wall won. Ski patrol, ambulance and hospital all performed marvellously, with bedside support from Roger, she was diagnosed with 9 broken

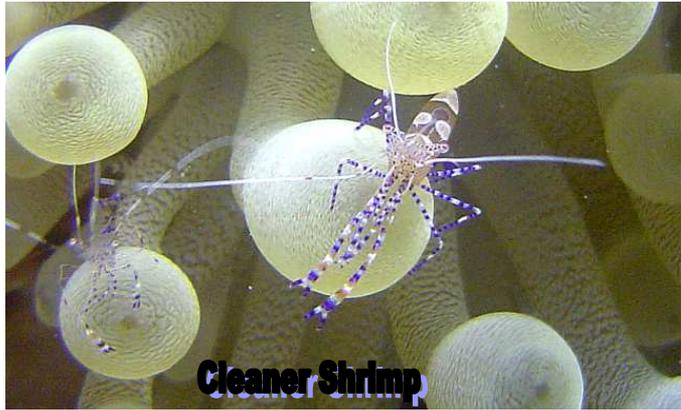


ribs and a broken collarbone. (Ouch! I hear you say). The medical care was exceptional, and after 6 days was released into my tender loving care back in the chalet. As you can imagine, she really was in a lot of pain, so loads of medication was called for. Nurse Brian did his best, and within a short time her old familiar smile started to shine through. Without going on too, much the whole thing was pretty horrific, and we had another two weeks in the chalet before heading back to the boat. We had to do a rethink of our plans, Sue would not be able to sail for a while so we returned to Bonaire by plane. VIP treatment helped to make the journey more comfortable. Within a few days we were back on a mooring in Bonaire and Sue sat in the cockpit watching the world go by propped up by loads of



**Sea Frog**

pillows. Thanks to all the friends we have made dropping in for a chat as they passed in their dinghies.



**Cleaner Shrimp**

We stayed for another month, got the OK from the Doctor that all was healing well, but we had to be careful. During that month Malarkey headed off to Curacao so I had to find new diving buddies. As I said previously the diving in Bonaire is pretty good, and soon we had a team together and were able to dive most days

One thing, we did was to help clean up the coral reef from debris left by hurricane Omar last October, diving down attaching ropes to debris and then the marine park boats would haul up the debris and dump the stuff on shore. We got air fills free from a local dive centre, and our efforts seemed to be appreciated by the authorities.



**Just Pretty**

We finally left Bonaire and headed to Curacao another of the Dutch Antillean Islands; here we met up with Malarkey again who showed us the area. We anchored in Spanish Water, a large inland lagoon, which, is the centre of all sailing activities on the Island. Willemstad, the capital is a UNESO site, and well worth a visit.



The language here is weird, Papiamentu is the native tongue, (yes. that's the weird greeting at the top of this travelogue) a mixture of Dutch, Spanish, Portuguese, French and English with a smattering of Arawak (the original Caribbe Indians), and it takes a bit of getting used to but also makes ordering food and other stuff interesting.



We went to the North West of Curacao in Darramy and met up with Malarkey and a few other boats in a wonderful anchorage, Santa Cruz. A natural bay with a beautiful beach.

We dived, and also collected Conche, a large shellfish that is at the end of the food chain. These shells are really tough to break into, and you have to have the knack of doing that. Cindy, from S/V Kelp Fiction showed us how. The male is an astounding creature, once we had him out of the shell, all was revealed; any male who had an appendage a quarter the length of his body gets my respect! At this time he was still alive so we cut off his eyes first as we didn't have the heart to cut off his manhood with those eyes watching us! Any way once again super chef Trevor did various Conche dishes and we all had another great night.



**Cindy extracting the Conche**

Medics are fairly high on our agenda at present as I discovered a couple of lumps in my abdomen, research on the Internet indicated Hernia problems so it was off to the clinic. Yes, Inguinal Hernia confirmed, but not one but two! We were referred to a private clinic, it was a choice of living with the possibility of it getting worse, and putting ourselves at risk if we were at sea, flying back to the UK to get on the NHS waiting list, or having it done here. Well lady



luck shone down on me. 5 days after diagnoses, I'm being operated on. This is one of those operations where the government here has frozen the price since the mid 80's, and as it was Monday I had two for the price of one! One night in the hospital and its back on board for convalescence. Sue and I felt we were in a floating nursing home, but after a couple of weeks doing very little, plenty of R & R, beer and wine,



I gradually started to feel easier, and we headed back up to Santa Cruz. It was so magical, the diving was great, we shared the anchorage with a Canadian boat called Squiz! (What sort of name is that?) We, had met Murray and Nadine previously, and really had a super time together. A couple of other boats called in on passage to Aruba, but mostly we were on our own. This is one of the few places where we have anchored for so long and not been

crowded out with other boats. However one Saturday night having just turned in at the bewitching hour of 10.00p.m. we were disturbed by gun fire. Hundreds of rounds of ammo being fired, grenades etc. 4 fast assault boats screamed passed us, then 5 minutes late screamed out of the anchorage after discharging their load of troops. Sue thought the Venezuelan Mafia was taking over, but it turned out to be the Dutch Army practicing.

With reflection, we enjoyed cruising the Windward and Leeward Islands, but as we are now heading further West, the places just get better. There are fewer boats, and hardly a charter boat to be seen.



We are now back in Spanish Waters whilst we try to get an immigration extension! Bureaucrats are the same the world over, but we have been told we will get it. Sue is recovering well and having Physiotherapy treatment, to get full use of her arm back.

As soon as that happens, we can head back to yes, you've guessed - Santa Cruz. To the point of getting even more boring, it is really that beautiful. Then we are hauling Darramy out of the water at the end of July. Sue is going back to the UK at the beginning of August, and I head off to Chile and Argentina for some skiing and to try and sort out a few of the snow capped volcanoes I failed to climb last year, then I return to the UK toward the end of August, where we hope to catch up with some of you. We then will return here at the end of September to head further West to Columbia and the San Blas Islands.



So as the say over here thats henter pa awor folks

(Delete as applicable)  
\*Best Wishes\*  
\*Kindest Regards\* \*Love and Hugs\*  
\*Cheers\*

Brian and Sue

You can view our previous travelogues of the last four years on our OCC site



[http://www.oceancruisingclub.org/component/option,com\\_mamblog/Itemid,102/task,show/action,view/id,1910/Itemid,102/](http://www.oceancruisingclub.org/component/option,com_mamblog/Itemid,102/task,show/action,view/id,1910/Itemid,102/)

You can check our position when we are sailing on:

[http://www.pangolin.co.nz/yotreps/reporter\\_list.php](http://www.pangolin.co.nz/yotreps/reporter_list.php) (add to your favourites) go down the list until you come to MBDF4 or Darramy, click on that and it should show you where we are.

Also, thanks, Dick and Ginger (S/V Alchemy) if you put our call sign (MBDF4) into Google you can often find our position.