

Sailing South - A Tale Of Two Jacksons

Fri 27/06/2003

Sailing South Plans

Hi, Les:

Plans are progressing for the big trip. Our expected departure date (not carved in stone!) is August 11th. I will very likely be contacting you in the coming weeks as questions pop up (on a daily basis!). A friend of ours provided us with electronic charts and I'm in the process of connecting the GPS to the laptop. They don't make a specific cable from my Furuno GPS to the laptop. They suggested that I go to Radio Shack, buy the parts and follow the instructions in the GPS operators' manual. This isn't as easy as it sounds. I'll have to go to a computer store for further assistance.

Stay tuned.

Larry & Carole

Dream Weaver

Date: Friday, June 27, 2003 11:42 PM

From: Les

To: Carole/Larry Jackson

Good to hear from you and that the plans are on track. We are also expecting another grandchild in about 2 weeks. I guess sailing will have to wait. The pending birth of a baby somehow takes priority over sailing!! I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT!! :-)

Re the GPS/Computer link, if I remember correctly my Furuno has a built-in diagram under one of the menu items. Let me know if you have any troubles. An alternative would be the little GPS I got for the car for travel. It is Model HI -203E which is the USB model. It was \$165 Cdn and is about 2" X 1.5" X .75".

There's also a serial version.

What charting software are you using?

Les Harrison

Enchantment, #214

Sat 28/06/2003

Re: Sailing South Plans

Hi, Les:

Thanks for the quick reply. Grandchildren do have a way of changing your thinking on everything, don't they?

I emailed Furuno's technical support division and they emailed the same electrical wiring diagram as I have in my operator's manual. I don't understand anything about electrical wiring and the two computer places I took it to won't even touch it! I purchased a DB9 pin serial connector specified for the hook up to my GPS. My problem is I don't know how to connect the GPS end with the remaining blue, yellow and green wires from my power cord to my GPS.

A friend gave us 6 CDs of "Captain Voyager" software which cover from New York to the Bahamas. We're still playing with them and trying to figure out exactly how to use them. The fellow that gave me the CDs has gone to the North Channel for two months, so I can't ask him for some advice.

I hope everything starts to come together soon - it's almost time to panic!

Aloha,

Larry

Mon 07/07/2003

Re: Sailing South Plans

Hi, Les:

Just to let you know I got the GPS and the laptop hooked up. I went to three computer stores and got absolutely no help at all. I finally figured it out myself. It works great! We need to play around with it a little bit more.

We don't know anything about setting up a website, so we'll use regular emails to keep you updated.

Did you do anything specific to your engine to compensate for the salt water? Did you add any additional sacrificial anodes to the drive shaft? I understand there are some inside the exchanger unit on my boat, but reading some of the newsletters, it didn't sound like people paid too much attention to replacing those anodes.

Larry

Date: **June 30, 2003** 10:31 PM

From: Les

To: Carole/Larry Jackson

If I can help let me know.

We had thought of coming down to see you off but we probably will be somewhere in the North Channel. In case we're not in touch before you leave, have you set up a communications line? Can I get some updates to send to members of the Network? Will you have a web page?

Full of questions, eh?

Les Harrison

Mon 11/08/2003

Bon Voyage!

Hello everyone:

Well we're about to set sail for Florida. In case you don't have our cell phone number, it is (519) 464-6175 - a local call for all who live in the Sarnia area.

Take care,

Aloha

Carole & Larry

Thu 04/09/2003

Sailing South - A tale of two Jacksons

Hello, everyone:

Well we set sail on August 11th headed for Florida and what a trip it's been so far. About four days out we had some engine problems which plagued us for about another four days. Captain Larry, Mr. Fixit, was able to resolve the problem - finally.

We headed down the St. Clair River to Lake St. Clair, the Detroit River and across Lake Erie where we entered the Erie Barge Canal (now named the New York State Canal). This is a 340 mile-trip through 32 locks to the Hudson River. We left our boat in Albany, New York - at the end of the canal- for a few days while we came home to attend my nephew's wedding and, of course, to see my two-month old granddaughter, Giselle! We'll leave on Sunday (Sept. 7th) to head back to the boat and continue the trip down the Hudson River, out into the Atlantic for a couple of days, to the Chesapeake Bay and on to Norfolk, Virginia where the intracoastal waterway begins - destination, the Florida Keys!

The weather has been great, the scenery incredible and we've met some very nice people along the way. We plan to return to Sarnia in late October for another wedding and again in December for a couple of weeks at Christmas time.

Stay tuned for more updates.

Captain Larry and First Mate Carole

Sat 13/09/2003

A 'Sail' of Two Jacksons - Part 2

Well here we are at an internet cafe in the middle of downtown New York City. What a fabulous place it is! It's Saturday afternoon, Sept. 13th and we arrived yesterday and anchored off the end of 79th Street opposite Central Park (cost- \$25/night - where can you stay in New York for that price!!).

We just visited Times Square, Rockefeller Center, the Empire State Building and are heading for the site of the World Trade Center.

It was a pretty rocky trip along the Hudson River yesterday with high winds and tides. The weather isn't looking too well for the next few days, so we may have to hang around New York City until Wednesday of next week.

Our next destination is a three-day venture out in the Atlantic Ocean along the New Jersey coast to Delaware Bay and then on to Chesapeake Bay. (We are keeping an eye on the hurricane situation.)

Stay tuned for further updates.

Captain Larry

First Mate Carole

Sept. 15, 2003

Larry and Carole Jackson - Odyssey Update

Hi folks,

I'm Paul Jackson, Larry's brother for those who don't know me. I was talking to Larry tonight. He calls me about once a week to keep me posted. We decided that it might be better if I sent some updates to you instead of and in addition to any that Carole might send. It's proving inconvenient to find internet hook-ups sometimes, especially when you are cheap like Larry and like to anchor out saving the dockage fees. I can say that 'cause I'm his brother.

I will send the messages as frequently as I can.

The call tonight was to assure me that they were safe from the hurricane, a "3" now on the hurricane scale. It is supposed to hit land about northern North Carolina. Larry and Carole have moved inland about 30 miles farther up the Hudson River. They were docked at the end of 79th Street opposite Central Park for the past few days enjoying visiting New York which they love except for the subways. They are both fine. They will stay at Tarrytown New York until at least Friday then make plans for the 3 days of open ocean they need to get to Chesapeake Bay and from there it is mostly inland waterways. The storm dictates their progress.

More problems though. The batteries aren't working well and Larry doesn't know whether he will have to order new ones from Canada or not. The bilge problem is they can't get rid of their "sh__" because the marinas along ocean shore have locations to pump them out. They just pump the crap into the ocean! Larry doesn't like that but... it may have to be that way! He also had problems with the propane gas tanks which he just bought new. It seems the USA has a different valve than Canada and he can't get them filled.

Solution - new valve stems installed or replace the new tanks with new tanks. Despite all that they are in good spirits and L. says he will spend the next few 'waiting' days trying to solve the problems.

If you wish further information don't hesitate to call me or if you want a message to get to them it's ok to call me and use my weekly conversations to pass information along to them.

Their telephone number directly to them is a local call at no charge to you. 464-6175 (dial it exactly this way)
Paul Jackson
542-3528

September 20, 2003

Larry and Carole Jackson Odyssey Update

Hi folks,

Talked to Larry and Carole on Friday, September 19. Larry, Carole and Dream Weaver are fine. Much ado about nothing for them during the hurricane just like here in Sarnia. Their plan was to move to the Statue of Liberty, Staten Island, region on Saturday, today, then check out the conditions on the ocean before moving on down the coast.

They will have to wait for the waves to subside before they sail perhaps leaving Sunday or Monday. They will try to make Atlantic City and Delaware Bay on two or three days of travel with perhaps a long day or two of 10-12 hours each. The remainder of the trip is most inland waterways after the sojourn into the ocean. They had to replace both propane tanks because of the difference in valve stems in the USA and they had to purchase new batteries since there were problems with the existing ones. The trip is costing more than expected with the storm and mechanical problems but both of them are in great spirits and the adventure is just that - an adventure.

Will keep you posted.

Sept. 26, 2003

Larry and Carole Jackson Odyssey Update

Hi folks,

Just talked to Larry. They are both doing well and lately have had great weather. They are just entering the damage area of the hurricane. Larry says there are two sail boats 200 yards from where they are docked that had been sunk in the storm with only the very top of the masts showing above the water. They expect to see more damage as they go further south. They said many stores aren't open yet because of water damage. They are in Annapolis Maryland right now and will be there until at least Monday. They will move further south when they are sure there are no more hurricanes. I guess they have some open ocean coming up again and are operating on the cautious side.

They can't be suffering too much - they "came ashore" and purchased a case of wine to "replenish the supplies" as the skipper says.

The tides are quite something and rather unique for Larry in sailing the boat. He says the tide can make a difference of 3-4 knots in speed. Yesterday they were going 8 knots then the tide changed and they were reduced to four knots.

Their problems seem to be behind them now - thank goodness.

If you are following the route on a road map like those big ones you can buy at Wal-mart, the Inland Waterway is marked with a dotted line and they will be following that route - at least since they left New York and New Jersey.

I am headed to Mont Tremblant tomorrow for a week. My weather won't be as nice as theirs! So I will try to get an update to you next Sunday, October 5.

Paul

October 8, 2003

Larry and Carole Jackson Odyssey Update

Hi folks,

First, if you are receiving these updates and don't wish them any longer just let me know and I will remove you from the list. No problem.

Today, Monday, they are in Hampton Virginia at the mouth of Chesapeake Bay. They are provisioning for the 6th leg of the journey beginning Wednesday going through the Intercoastal Waterway. I found the route on a Rand McNally Road Atlas in blue dashed lines.

The alternator problems were solved by "buying their way out of it". Turned out the batteries L. bought were not the problem - it was the alternator and/or regulator. They kept the old batteries and hooked them up together so now they have 4 batteries and enough power to do anything they want to.

They have some good sails lately. Daytime is about 70 degrees and nights are very cold in the high 30's. They use the gas stove to heat up the boat. One thing they don't seem to have is a heater!!!! It would probably break anyway!

They are having a great time "between disasters" but their spirits are high. They are going to the Radisson Hotel tonight to watch the football game and get some free munchies at half time - pretending to be staying at the hotel no doubt. Can't keep Larry away from free munchies and football. Hope he doesn't fall asleep like he usually does.

They have seen some damage from Isabel on their travels.

They are still anchoring out whenever possible and taking showers in their portable shower stall while they are sitting on deck. Doesn't that sound romantic! Or ridiculous! Or uncomfortable! Or unnecessary! or well think of them the next time you are in the shower.

Both of them are keeping diaries. Carole's is well done, factual and useful. Larry's is full of spelling mistakes, fantasies, and humour. Like Larry says, "We are both keeping a diary but they aren't alike in any way." Surprised?

They are off on Wednesday, Oct. 10 through the GREAT DISMAL SWAMP in Virginia. They heard it was beautiful with trees overhanging the canal, a couple of locks, and great hospitality. This also is on the road map.

They will be returning home briefly Oct. 22 or 23 for a wedding.

Paul

Oct. 15,2003

Larry and Carole Jackson Odyssey Update

Hi again,

Larry called last night. Good news - no problems!!! Maybe that's all you wanted to hear!

Both of them are doing just fine. Weather has been good and in the 70's during the day. They are experiencing some rain just like us at the end of the Thanksgiving weekend. I guess they were sailing under a bridge on Monday and some fisherman seeing the Canadian flag on the boat shouted, "Happy Thanksgiving".

They are currently in Wilmington, N.C. staying over for a few days. The docking is between a spit of land protecting them from the ocean and the city itself. They are still anchoring out most of the time. They are docked alongside a shopping mall called Beaufort Landing.

Larry says a school or porpoises followed their boat for quite some time the other day which was exciting. It's funny - Larry never liked schools much before!

The intention is to leave here and be in Myrtle Beach, S.C. by Friday of this week. They hope to do some golfing and will leave the boat there when they return to Sarnia for a wedding.

Larry says they don't get much in the way of news and almost never a newspaper. He says it makes "great bonding" with each other. I didn't hear Carole's version of this bonding.

I guess Carole ran the boat aground when leaving an anchorage while Larry was pulling in the anchor. It seems that at some points in the channel they are following the red and green signals in the water are reversed in terms of whether you stay to the left or right of them. They grounded in 3 ft. 7 inches of water. They did manage to unstuck themselves with no damage. Larry did say that running into the bottom happens frequently even with good charts and a depth gauge.

Their telephone hook-up works well most of the time but they still run in to "dead" patches sometimes for several days or hours at a time.

Until next time -

Paul

Mon 03/11/2003

The Jackson's Sailing Odyssey Continues

Hello everyone:

We're actually at an internet access in Beaufort, South Carolina (pronounced Bew-fort - not to be confused with Beaufort, North Carolina (pronounced Beau-fort!!))

We arrived back at the boat - after our visit to Sarnia - last Tuesday (Oct. 28th) after a gruelling 15-hour drive through driving rain most of the day.

Wednesday was a day to regroup and prepare for the next leg of our journey. The weather has been beautiful with lots of sun and temps in the mid to high 70s (F) and no rain.

On Thursday, October 30 we left Myrtle Beach headed for Georgetown, SC (a beautiful old city with waterfront shops and restaurants and old historic homes). We then continued on to Charleston, a place we have been to by car more than once. We stayed there for two days and I could have stayed longer. It is named after King Charles II (originally called Charles Town) and was established in 1760. Fort Sumter is across the harbour. There is a fabulous downtown district and we even found the flea market we visited the last time we were there. No jewellery was purchased this trip, unfortunately :(

On Sunday, November 2nd we pulled anchor and headed to Beaufort - a two-day trip for us. We arrived around 11:00 a.m. today and have just had a nice lunch at a riverfront restaurant and are about to check out the shops and sights in this historic city.

I hope you're getting updates on our journeys from Larry's brother, Paul, when we aren't able to access the internet. If not, please email him and ask to be included.

We're headed to Hilton Head tomorrow to meet up with Dave Woods and play some golf. Our plan is to be in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. by November 16th or 17th and stay there for a week or so while we wait for Nicole, Roger and little Giselle when they arrive during the American Thanksgiving holiday week.

That's the update for now. Stay tuned as we continue our adventure to the sunny south!

Aloha,

Carole (& Captain Larry)

November 7, 2003

Larry and Carole Jackson - Odyssey Update

Hi again,

When Larry and Carole were home for the wedding Larry took out 45 minutes from his busy schedule and paid us a visit. Carole was home doing the laundry. Both of them were anxious to get away from the busy life in Sarnia (can you believe that - Sarnia is too hectic for them!) and return to the relative calm of the boat.

Larry was saying that the salt water is making for a great deal of extra work. Things are rusting. He has to clean the boat with fresh water whenever he can. He also said everything on the boat get covered in that salty film you have on your body after swimming in the ocean. The dirty water in the inland waterway is also making the hull of the boat filthy. If you know Larry at all he can't stand being dirty or messy or yuckie. Sticky little kids used to scare him when he was growing up. Even Scott and Dean were trained to "stay away" when they were dirty. This dirty boat must be a real problem for him.

He was also saying that the enclosure on the boat has been fabulous. They see other boaters in rainy or windy or cold weather and they are suffering but not these two bugs in a rug!

I got a call tonight - Friday, November 7. They are in Savannah Georgia. It's absolutely beautiful there with old 1700 type mansions and stone streets. The tide is quite high. When the tide was out they couldn't see any of the city because they were so low in the water. By the time the tide had risen- over 7 feet - the city came in to view gradually. That must be quite an experience. When they leave tomorrow he expects to go with the tide which will make their speed about 8 knots as opposed to the 3.9 knots going against the tide. The temperature when he called about 7:00 p.m. was in the middle 70's. They have had temps in the 80's most of the last few days. It was too hot and humid - almost - to play golf but they managed somehow. I think he heard we were about to get snow tomorrow and wanted to rub it in a little. Oh well, at least we aren't covered in salt!!! Well, not until they put it on the roads.

They spent a few days at Hilton Head with Dave Woods golfing. There was a dock nearby so they left the boat and "drylanded" it for a few days.

They hope to be in Florida by next Monday travelling along the coastal waterway through Georgia. One day they were in dense fog and couldn't see anything. Humongous fishing boats with fish nets were trolling the waterways. The GPS didn't work. I guess it sometimes happens for a few minutes at a time. They knew there were other sail boats in the area so Larry used the radio and got in touch with a boat that had radar. He doesn't have it. That boat helped steer all the other boats clear of the fishing boats until the fog lifted. They were really in a fog and not one created by returning to Sarnia!

Larry says the locals are wearing sweaters like it was cold. Everything is relative I guess.

They hope to be in Miami for the American Thanksgiving the end of November. They are flying back for Christmas on December 17 returning to Florida January 6 or 7.

The last sound I heard on the phone was Larry's imbecilic laugh saying, "Enjoy the snow!"

So long for now.

Paul

November 17, 2003

Larry and Carole Jackson Odyssey Update

Hi folks,

Lots has been happening since the last email. Got a call on Tuesday, November 11. John McKenzie, Carole's former husband had passed away. Carole was returning home to be with Nicole and Jay and attend the funeral. At this writing she is still home but returning to meet with Larry on Thursday, November 20. Back to the odyssey which it surely has become. Last call on the 11th they were at Jeckell Island Georgia. Had encountered some of the same winds we had here in the storm with the waves hitting 16 feet high. Quite an adventure. No cookies lost though. Carole is becoming quite a sailor. There were going to head to St. Augustine next. Larry will do the trip alone for a few days. He can't stop sailing because of commitments to meet people in mid to late November. I warned him of some his past adventures on Lake Huron and reminded him to put on the safety vest and life line when pulling up the anchor. He could probably use it so he wouldn't fall off the stern of the boat when he fell asleep too!!! Larry did say he stocked up with Canadian beer when he was home last time so he has that to keep him company. I've been on sailing trips with Larry. Food isn't the first thing he thinks about taking but he dearly loves to eat. He wanted to average 45-50 miles per day for the about 5 days over the next week. Weather is getting warmer all the time. On one of the days the wind was strong so he was "motor sailing" getting up to 70 miles one day when 45 miles would have been great. They were long lonely days on the water. The tides they have encountered have been as high as 9 feet near Savannah Georgia.

The call today, November 17 brings this news. He is docked at Pompano Beach Florida at a hotel-marina complex. He is witting site of 6 sports bars so... The houses along the waterway cost in the millions of dollars with pools, and docks and huge houses. There are 150 foot boats docked in front of the homes. He should feel like a fish out of water among them. Speaking of fish, he had several dolphins following him. He

got his video camera and they jumped for him just like they know what he wanted. He has also seen manta rays. The water is emerald green now and not black like earlier. He hopes to clean up the boat as he stays where he is until Carole returns on Thursday then departs on Saturday or Sunday.

He travelled with a German couple for a couple of days which made navigating by himself much easier as he followed them. He was going golfing Tuesday and Thursday.

He wanted some details about the Grey Cup game. Seems he couldn't find a bar showing it. It's NFL and NBA only. Not even golf is shown.

Listen to this!!!!

"I'll be glad to get her (Carole) back. She is not only my wife and navigator but my best friend." The boy is suffering from sun stroke I think. I've never heard him talk like that. They are truly a good match and they would have to be on an adventure like this one.

Well, that's as much as I can remember and my notes remind me of so enjoy yourselves until next time.

Paul

December 5, 2003

Larry and Carole Jackson Odyssey Update

Hi again folks,

It's been a while because Larry and Carole have just been enjoying the fine weather and "hanging out" in Florida. Carole arrived back to meet Larry safe and sound. The two of them spent American Thanksgiving week with Nic, Roger and the precious one! This was in the Fort Lauderdale area of Florida.

Got the most recent call last night. They are at Lake Worth which is really West Palm Beach and will have left for Stewart where they will begin the crossing of Florida through Lake Okeechobee or whatever it is called.

Evidently there are many bridges to navigate some taking as long as 45 minutes wait time to have them lifted so they can sail through. One stretch of water has 19 bridges over a 44 mile stretch. Some bridges are "one request". Larry can barely make it under some bridges with the mast up. The trip across Florida will take 3 days weather permitting. If there are strong winds they will have to wait as the Lake is very shallow.

Last Friday they survived a dangerous situation. I won't even have to embellish this story. It's exciting enough. I hope I do it justice. They were about 1/8 of a mile from a bridge going too fast so L. put it in neutral but the shifting cable broke so he was stuck in forward and couldn't use reverse at all. They had to keep turning in circles and the current was pushing them around. Larry recognized the problem and knew he would have to shift the gears manually from below deck but at first this was hard to get to with all the stuff that was stored below. He knew they would have to dock to fix it and he did have a spare part. It certainly pays to "know your boat" and be "mechanically inclined". They radioed a marina in downtown Fort Lauderdale and got a berth. The trip there was nerve racking since they knew they would have problems docking the boat with being able to put it in reverse easily. The current was also a big factor in steering the boat. As they approached the docking area Carole had to go to the bow and Larry had to steer and stay astern to manually shift into reverse to try to dock the boat. Carole tried to get a line on to the shore and in doing that leaned too far falling overboard. Larry was unable to do anything because he had to put it in reverse to avoid hitting Carole and running in to the dock. He realized a few seconds later that Carole was not in the water but clinging to the side of the boat by one hand and was dangling between the boat and the dock. Some on-shore workers grabbed Carole's other hand and Larry eventually was able to get the boat somewhat stopped with the current pushing them. Larry got Carole's other arm and managed to get her either on shore or on board without her going completely under the water. The tide was out so "she didn't even get her hair wet". This would be important for some of you readers. Carole is fine!!!! She is ok except for some bruises on her body and swollen fingers where she was grabbing the line on the boat. Serious injury was avoided and she is laughing somewhat painfully at the present time. She is claiming Larry "pushed

her overboard" if anyone is willing to listen to that story. The two of them are certainly making this trip more of an adventure than they had planned! Larry got the problem fixed in short order once he was able to dock and clear things out of the way.

On the plus side they said the docking downtown Ft. L. was excellent with good restaurants, lots of traffic, big homes and a Jazz festival going on.

They are experiencing "Freaky Fridays" since every major problem they have had has been on a Friday. But the good thing has always been they have docked in a great place and lucked out with great spots to spend the weekend. The good, the bad and the ugly!

So... this Friday say a prayer for them. They may need it.

Weather remains hot and "sweaty" through all these repairs as well. Larry said he had to dock one night after dark using his LAN system and little else in a narrow canal. He did it ... but it wasn't a Friday.

That's it for now. Write to you soon. Carole is fine. Not to worry.

Paul