

## Happy New Year 2018!

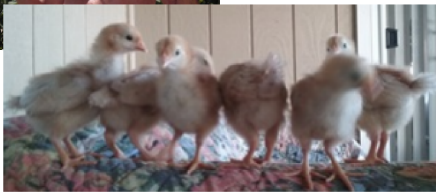
2017 was pretty good for us! Although I suffer mightily with 24/7 pain, we fortunately encountered no serious health problems in 2017. Sadly we cannot say the same for our adopted wild pussy cat, Schnookie. Feral cats are a huge problem on Molokai and Schnookie has gotten into many battles defending our property. Last spring a mangy, mean, feral feline bit her left foot and she developed a *severe* infection. For over a month, our lovely home became a veterinary hospital. The local vet tried “draining” it, but despite constant warm compresses, it continued to worsen, turning black as gangrene set in. It was horrible and we had to have her leg amputated at the hip.



Schnookie absolutely refused to wear the plastic collar the vet gave us so we taped the wound up well so she could not lick the bandage off. That meant every so often we had to remove the super sticky adhesive tape bit by bit with a Q-tip and mineral oil. Our fur-ball is far from domesticated. She lives outdoors and hates being inside, but we could not let her out till she healed and the stitches were removed. We were all pretty bummed. Like us, she's a survivor, however and hops around extremely well on three legs and even catches the occasional mouse. Of course she still brings us lots of joy.



We are still eating out of our little farm every day and selling any overage wholesale, but with everything going on, which I will get to shortly, the farm has suffered some neglect. It requires immense work and it is always a challenge keeping up with it. We did get a new batch of chicks so we will soon be in the egg business again.



Lorraine and I travel to the other islands to make our Costco, Home Depot runs, etc. (everything is outrageously expensive here) and during our trip to Maui last March we got to rock out to one of our

favorite bands from the Bay Area, **Journey**. What a blast! The man in the top hat in the picture is **Willy K**, who joined the band for several songs. He's Hawaiian and an absolutely incredible musician, singing everything from opera to rock and old style Hawaiian slack key songs.



We flew back to Maui in August for the Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association's annual state championship regatta. Lorraine paddled 3 days a week for months preparing for the race and she did great. She not only paddles but learned how to steer and goes out with “recreational” paddlers every Thursday.

We rarely get visitors on Thanksgiving our pals Jim and from Oahu to celebrate with us. We had met cruising Tongan island of Nieu-toputapu in 2008. Great friends



Molokai but this Cindy Rector, came over at the northernmost and fun.

We are getting really good at cooking turkeys. We soak them in brine and seasonings for 24 hours before roasting and stuff them with oranges. **Ono** is the Hawaiian word for delicious, and we had friend over to share on Thanksgiving and Christmas and they all agreed our birds were extremely **Ono**.



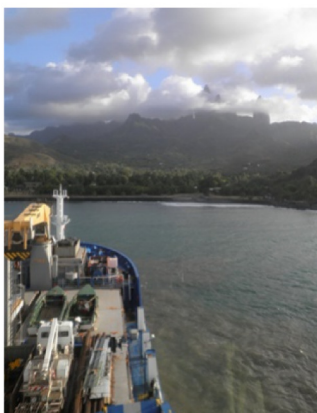
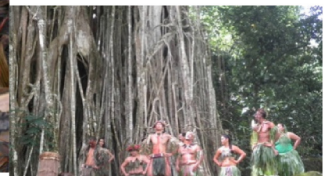


When we moved here we arrived with 2 suitcases each. Nothing else. Not a spoon, bowl or screwdriver. We had enough furniture and necessities stored in San Diego during the 20 years we lived on Southern Cross to set up a small one-bedroom apartment in case our boat ever sank. When the boat sold in New Zealand, we moved all our belongings from her into a shipping container. It would take a long time, however, to get everything across the oceans to Molokai so while we waited, Lorraine flew to Honolulu to buy basic things so we could survive.



By the time all our stuff arrived we had boat parts like anchors, etc. that we would never use, triplicates of many items, so autumn was massive estate sale time. We spent months pricing; cleaning, packaging, and setting everything up; hung flyers all over the island, and sold stuff for *4 solid days*. The pic left is some of what was left after the first 2 days. Yikes. What did not sell had to be put away and the garage restored to its wonderfully empty condition.

We never go on vacations. I am sure some folks think we were on vacation when we were “cruising” yet we always worked hard. We had sailed Southern Cross 30 days from Mexico to the Marquesas in 1996 and 21 years later, in August we flew to Tahiti and boarded the passenger freighter *Aranui* for a 2 week cruise to the remote volcanic islands. ([www.aranui.com](http://www.aranui.com)). We celebrated my 68<sup>th</sup> birthday and our 42<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary on board, visiting 2 Tuamotu atolls and every populated Marquesa Island. Spectacular! I could write volumes about our magic journey but decided to just send some of our favorite pictures instead.







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d to Bora Bora and our favorite place in the world, Moorea. If anyone would like a few details about this incredible trip, please call and we will happily fill you in. Lastly we are looking for someone to house sit our 2 bedroom home on Molokai for 3 weeks in January 2019. Pass the word. We are going to take the *Aranui* to the Gambier and Austral Islands and Pitcairn. Can't wait. Love and aloha, Robby and Lorraine

