

# LOG of the *MIMI*



## CHAPTER 14 – MARATHON, FLORIDA KEYS

### *Faro Blanco Bayside Marina – New Years Eve, 2004*

**Thursday, December 30, 2004 Temple, TX & Marathon, FL**

**Temple:** L60's-U60's – Partly Cloudy, Wind SE15-20kts

**Marathon:** M60's-L70's – Partly Cloudy, Wind N15-20kts Gusty

It seems we've been away from the *MIMI* much longer than 2 ½ weeks that we were in Texas for a very busy Christmas. Our daughter Jeanette and family visited from Germany for 10 days. Five year-old twins Nils & Laura were delightful, though they speak little English. Actually they learned a lot during the visit, demonstrating how easily another language is learned at that age. Formal English lessons in school begin for them in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.

Eighteen of our family were with us Christmas morning and dinner; our children, John, Jeannette, Rachel & Drew their spouses and children (Nils, Laura, Ruffin, Simon, Zachary & Nicholas) and Johns in-laws Eric & Ute. My mother was unable to join us but Betty & I visited her in the nursing home. The day after Christmas we celebrated 3-month old Nicholas's church 'dedication' 1 year-old Zachary's first birthday.

At Faro Blanco, Betty's dock flowers are blooming up a storm... the Hibiscus has beautiful red blossoms something else has pink and the herbs are doing well. All around Marathon the Bougainvillea are in full bloom painting the island bright pink.

**News:** The joy of Christmas and family was dampened by the tragic news of a devastating earthquake and tsunami that resulted in the death of more than 100,000 people in 12 countries that rim the Indian Ocean, including hardest hit India, Thailand, Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

After getting settled, we dine at 'Annette's' with Butch & Cathy and Michael & Judy Hauth. Michael, a former tech with Apple Computer is now the 'IT' guy for a private school in Indiana. The Yellow Fin Tuna was terrific.

Betty lasted through just the first half of 'Pirates of the Caribbean.'

**Friday, December 31, Docked, Faro Blanco (Bayside) Marina, Marathon, FL**

**U60's-M70's – Partly Cloudy, Wind N15-20kts Gusty**

While in Texas, SALT was to find and fix the chill water line leak and Marathon Boat Yard was to remove the steering hydraulic cylinder and replace the seals and replace transom lift hydraulic hoses. Okay here's what was done:

- Hydraulic cylinder seals were replaced but there's oil on the bottom side of the cylinder! We later discover cylinder bolts needed additional tightening.
- Hydraulic hoses were NOT replaced! I knew this a couple of days ago; responding to my email inquiry, they said they "needed my authorization" to special order the hose... of

course a) it was on the work order with deposit paid, b) they made no effort to contact me about it, and c) why the hell did they wait 2 weeks to ask?

- Chill water line leak was investigated by Dana December 17<sup>th</sup> but was supposed to go on the 14<sup>th</sup>. He called with news that he had located a leak in the water pump seal and would order a seal kit; nearly 2-weeks later, responding to my email inquiry, they told me the factory was closed the last 2 weeks of December. Setback! Question is why they waited until the 20<sup>th</sup> to place the order! So the pump has to be reinstalled (so we have A/C... then out again... 3.5 hours to re-install and 1 hour to re-remove at \$80/hour that's \$360.00... a hit from the combination of 'Key's disease, holiday's and... it's a boat!

December 14<sup>th</sup>, when we left here, our Cingular wireless email was working fine... now it won't connect, the local Cingular office has no clue why and calls to the tech center are averaging an hour and more! They've been making system upgrades but what to do? Wait 'til Monday and call our rep in Texas.

With no projects... I'm willing to undertake on the last day of 2004, I spend most of the afternoon reading 'Supreme Commander' by Stephen Ambrose; it's a great book about WWII Supreme Allied Commander, General Dwight D. Eisenhower. The book includes a lot of battle story but also focuses on politics and the coordination necessary to mount an allied expeditionary force. One of the intriguing aspects was the power struggle in France and the emergence of General Charles de Gaul.

**News:** The death toll from the Indian Ocean tsunami is approaching 120,000 with many still unaccounted for and numerous small islands still unchecked.

Late afternoon George and Patty Kirby stop by with 4 other couples to visit and tour *MIMI*; they are staying at Hawk Key for New Years and had been to 'Castaway's' for lunch. George owns a 2000 Bluewater 58 footer that delaminated along the keel; Bluewater demurred on picking up the tab for repairs to the 'life-time' warranted hull. George says he'll be at the Miami International Boat show in February wearing his "Ask me about my boat" tee-shirt; it ought to be a hit around the Bluewater booth!



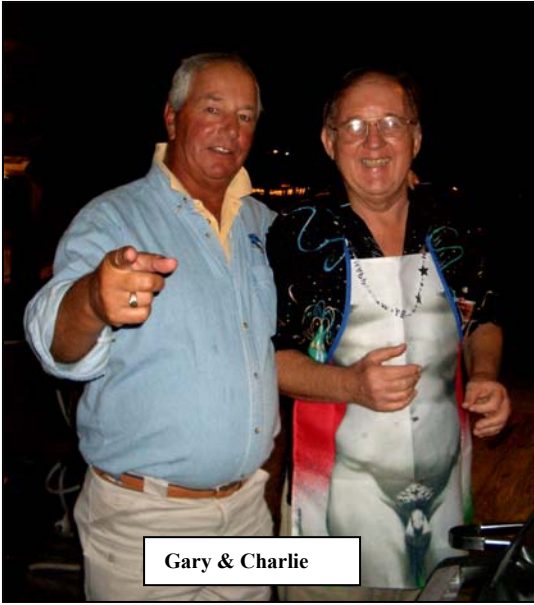
The place to be tonight is on Charlie & Cathy Powell's boat *Casa Del Mar* (80' triple-deck houseboat). Guests dined on huge shrimp, Charlie brought from Maryland, and grilled tenderloin by Chef Gary Bach with all the trimmings. Charlie hired a caricaturist (Shelly) from Miami; she must have done 50 or more. With 60 plus guests, the boat was a busy place but most crowded around the 2<sup>nd</sup> deck bar with the two giant-screen TV's; the night was cool and windy but the deck enclosure made it very comfortable.

'Marathon Midnight' (9:00pm) claimed many at the party with most gone by 10:30pm. Back on the *MIMI*, we watch New Years shows and Betty is asleep by 11:00.

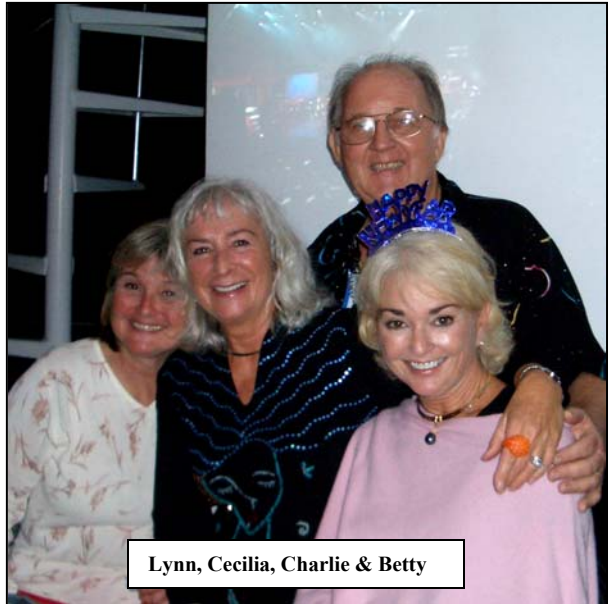
2004 has been a wonderful year of cruising aboard the *MIMI*! Most new boat issues have or are being resolved. We've enjoyed friend's visits. We cruised new places, gained experience and made new friends we'll keep for life. We're enjoying our time on the *MIMI* and look forward to family and friend's visits and to making new friends along our way.



Photo Gallery



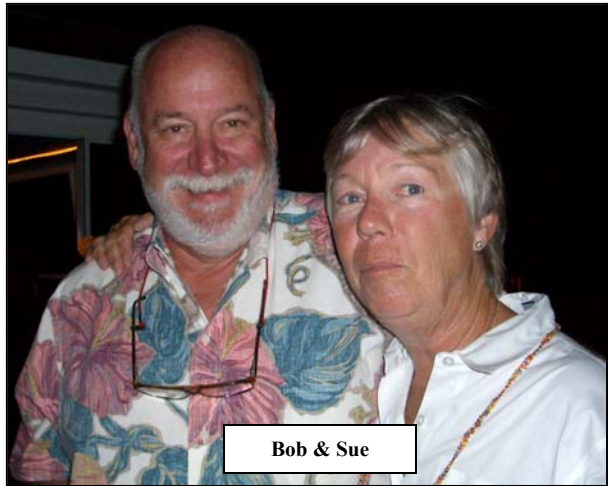
Gary & Charlie



Lynn, Cecilia, Charlie & Betty



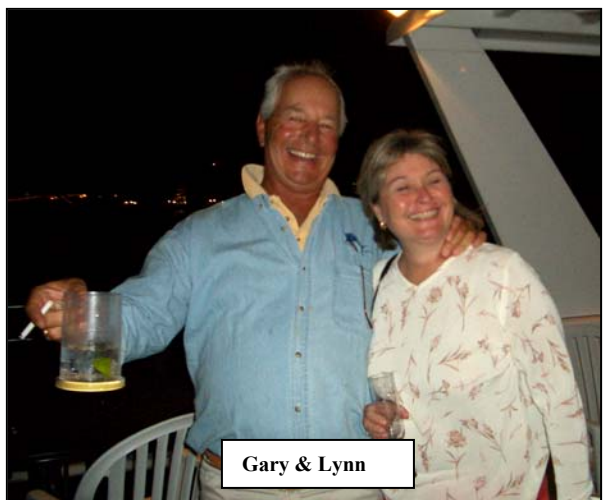
Claire & Ed



Bob & Sue



Cecilia, Cathy & Betty



Gary & Lynn