

May 13, 2010

We got to play the proud parents and had a great graduation weekend with our son. We helped Scott host a fantastic graduation party for him and a bunch of his friends and their families. Scott put the whole thing together with grace and elegance, and we proudly shared a very special evening together.

Scott has now purchased a one-way ticket to China. (Funny, I think I threatened to do that when he was about 14 or so). He will soon be off on his big adventure and I doubt that we'll see him for a year or more, but we are excited for him.

We arrived back in Ketchikan at 9:00 pm and it wasn't five minutes before yet another colorful Alaskan character, we call him Ketchikan Bob, introduced himself to us as we stood waiting for a ferry to transport us from the airport to town. It went like this, Bob approaches us and says "Have you ever taken an airplane flight and discovered that you had arrived in the wrong city?" "Ahhh, no, are you lost?" we respond. "No, but once I flew to Cincinnati when I really meant to go to Chicago.", says Bob. Well I won't go into it right now but the conversation got even more strange from there. Nevertheless during our ten minute ferry trip together we became fast friends with Ketchikan Bob and accepted his offer for a ride to our boat in his beat up little pick up truck. I must confess I was a bit concerned during the ride that he might suddenly turn down a dark road and start wielding an ax towards us while chanting some satanic verses or something, but I am happy to report that that didn't happen and that Ketchikan Bob was simply another friendly colorful Alaskan.

We arrived at the boat and there across the dock were our buddies Bev & Jerry on Silverstar. They had even left a welcome home card and gifts at our back door. Those of you who followed our trip last year will remember Silverstar as our "Mother Duck" who shepherded us up to Alaska.

Bev & Jerry were waiting up to see us and we had a wonderful time catching up with these great friends.

We spent the next two days waiting out a storm and hanging out with Silverstar and good friends from Serendipity and their friends on SKIE (Spending our Kids Inheritance Early). Serendipity and SKIE are beautiful Nordhavn 55's and SKIE has come all the way from Australia to cruise the Pacific Northwest.

We finally left Ketchikan on a beautiful calm sunny day, happily leaving the hustle and bustle and the now full cruise ship schedule far behind.

Somehow CrossRoads has once again been put in the position of "Sacrificial Nordhavn" and finds herself leading this little flotilla of Nordhavns consisting of CrossRoads, Skie and Serendipity. We have one stop before running the intricate Wrangell Narrows on our way up to Petersburg to join in on their Little Norway Festival.

More later.

Stan & Diane

CrossRoads N50-01