

## Another Chapter Closes and A New Chapter Begins

Yes, yes I know.....I am way, way behind! But I have a good excuse. Hold On!!!

The Smiths and the Goldmans went their separate ways in the beginning of January, with us pulling into Lazy Days on January 2nd, while Henry & Ann prepared to head West. After Lazy Days we slowly worked our way towards Myrtle Beach and arrived in Briarcliffe on January 22nd. On the way we stopped at the Navy Base in Mayport, FL a favorite military campground. Our plan was to stay in MB until we were ready to move West. One important issue was to renew my driver's license in Sioux Falls, SD. That was the plan! For months, Bob & I had been talking about buying something in the Myrtle Beach area for when we come off the road. Well, in short, as some of you know, we did just that over the next few months.

We both felt that the time was right. Although we still enjoy our motor home, we have been slowing down, more inclined to stay longer in places. The market was another factor as it is clearly a buyer's market. Then on top of that we found something we really like. Paul & Angie Thrash were also in MB and have been heading in the same direction. They introduced us to the Lakeside Crossing Community, where we viewed several homes and ultimately fell in love with one. They chose to have a home built in Longs, SC a little ways from here. Needless to say once we realized we were actually going to do this, things became quite hectic. Our plan was and is to sell our motor home, so we took the necessary steps to publicize the sale.

Soooo, this and the following newsletters will tell the story of our transition from motor home living to our home without wheels. As I mentioned, we did not arrive at Briarcliffe until January 22nd. I had been feeling a bit under the weather so the remainder of the month was spent with medical appointments, including a local chiropractor, Dr Robin Labod, who was a great find! It was during this time that we discovered that the condos we were originally interested in were involved in a major law suite with the construction company over defects in the construction. This was disappointing and because of this we had to change our direction.

So from here on I will take you through the change process beginning with our transition from FL to SC. While at Lazy Days, we visited a local power plant where Manatees were known to congregate in the warmer waters in cooler weather. Quite a sight! Some pictures of the plant with reflections of the smoke stacks in the water along with the manatees. I included a picture of a manatee family.

At the Pelican Roost Famcamp in Mayport, FL we took a few days to enjoy the activity of the large Navy Ships coming and going.

Thinking back, I am amazed that we got this far, so fast! Much of this is due to Bob and his superior organizational skills! Once the decision was made he was in full action mode. Initially, I was a bit under the weather and not as helpful as I might have been otherwise. As we all know, 'moving' in and of itself is not much fun...even when you don't have furniture to relocate. Because of the timing of this event, he had to perform some financial gymnastics. We knew that if we waited this house would not have stayed on the market for very long. In fact someone else had tried to get it before us but could not get financing. I guess it was meant to be!! A special thanks to my 'loving husband'! He knew I was in love with this house!

We had visited other communities, in other areas, but did not see any others that compared to this one in the quality of homes, visual appeal of the layout, people friendly atmosphere, activities available, as well as a first class facility to use. In addition, it is a 55+ community. It is virtually close to anything you need or want. Walmart and the CVS pharmacy is within walking distance, and the hospital, post office, grocery stores are five minutes away. The ocean beach is about 20 minutes away. Looking out our rear windows, however, we feel only serenity and peace!

We ended up making numerous trips back and forth, with boxes of "stuff" and after the closing brought our motor home to our street to take out our air mattress, so we would have something to sleep on in the house!! We replaced it with a regular mattress in the motor home. We have been getting furniture little by little. Each day we learn something new about the house (said the same thing about the motor home).

Prior to leaving Briarcliffe, we celebrated Saint Patrick's Day locally. It was a break from packing and traveling back and forth between the coach and the house. The coach was beginning to look bare and the cats were beginning to wonder what was going on. We were permitted to store some of our boxes in the garage prior to the closing, which made it a



## Smith Family Newsletter January through March 2012—Page 1

When we arrived in Myrtle Beach we were a little ahead of schedule so we spent one night at our neighborhood Walmart. It was fun, as we have never stayed there before ourselves. We always see others there however. We even had a water front site!

After the picture of our coach at Walmart, I have included a picture of the power plant in Seffner, FL and of the manatee family trying to keep warm in the waters by the plant.



## Smith Family Newsletter January through March 2012—Page 2

