

News from the Rock

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Volume 1, Issue 2

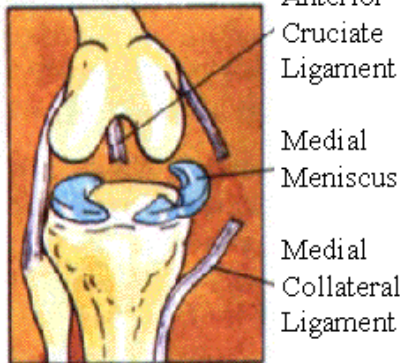
December 1998

1998 Started Out Good ?

In January, we were living up to our new year resolutions. Working out and all that good stuff. For Mary's birthday, I brought both of us a 6 month membership to the Gym and bikes. Biking to the gym would be a great aerobic exercise. Mary and I were feeling great, and getting ready for the annual ski trip. We went skiing in Snowmass in March with friends. Coming off the lift I stepped on the back of Mary's ski. The next day, I had a total ACL reconstruction surgery. As if completely destroying my knee was not enough, halfway through my knee therapy, I was stricken with a pinched nerve in my neck which was extremely painful. I am telling you about these ailments because I now know what it is like to be old and crippled. These injuries changed my life by intensifying my search for the boat of my dreams before I am too old and crippled to enjoy it.



Ouch!



Derek's Summer Visit

Derek "Lloyd" was here for the summer. He was working at Pennekamp Dive Shop. Mary and I are very proud of him for getting numerous dive certifications. He worked very hard at all of his endeavors. We missed the other boys this year, but Derek did keep us laughing!

Sundance

On July 24, 98, Mary & I took delivery of "Sundance". "Sundance" is a 36 ft Luhrs Open Express with twin 420 hp



diesels and all the luxuries. Mary & I spent 2 days getting home. The maiden voyage was great. This was like Christmas in July.

Mary & I were planning a trip to the Bahamas the last week of Derek's summer visit, however, early in August Dad Powell became seriously ill. He had been suffering from Colon Cancer for the past 2 years. Mary went to Utah to help



and be by her dad's side. On August 18, William D. Powell a loving husband and father, and a great person passed away. We all spent a great Christmas together last year and it will be remembered this year.

Hurricanes and Biking



On Wednesday, September 23, Hurricane Georges put us under a Hurricane Watch. Mary & I prepared the house for a major Hurricane and I left in "Sundance" for Stuart, 125 miles north on the east coast of Florida. Mary cried when I left. She was remembering Hurricane Andrew and realizing our home and everything could be totally destroyed in a couple of days when Hurricane Georges arrived. Mary was also upset because the Hurricane was delaying up her Bike trip plans with Barbara in New Mexico. Fortunately, the storm passed just south of Key West. On Friday, Mary got through the road blocks and found our home suffered only minor damage.

With Georges gone, Mary was on a flight to New



Mexico to link up with Barbara and Mom Powell. They visited Cynthia & Family in El Paso. Mary and Barbara had a great time pedaling their ___ off in the mountains of New Mexico. They met some great people, while questioning their sanity and having fun.



*Merry Christmas and a
Happy Year to one and all..*

Fishing & Boating in the Fall



On October 9, I pick up Ilsa and Steven. The next day we set out on "Sundance" for a Camping trip. Steven loved the boat. We had a great time catching fish and snor-



keling. We even had a pod of Dolphins come by the boat early Sunday morning.

The weather in '98 seemed to create milestones. Hurricane Mitch turned into a Tropical Storm by the time it slammed into Key Largo on November 4. However, Mitch had a surprise for Key Largo, a (F-3) Tornado that devastated a 5 mile wide path through Key Largo just missing our home. Mary was at home and in a state of panic. Now we have the house and the boat to secure. I was in Miami, but couldn't get home because the roads were closed.

We had a quiet but great Thanksgiving. Mom Powell, Mom Patton and Niece Mary Kathryn were here for the holiday. Having our Senior Citizen Mothers on "Sundance" for a boat ride was interesting, however they enjoyed it very much. We got some snorkeling in and the weather was great.

Craig visited us the week after Thanksgiving. We went snorkeling at Molasses reef. The water was very clear and warm. We got to see a 150 pound Jewfish. These fish are making a good comeback since they have been given full protected status. It was great to see.

After Xmas Mary and I will be in the Bahamas for 2 weeks.

We wish you all a wonderful Holiday!