

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS, EVERYONE!

Things have been a little calmer around here this year, compared to last year, although it seems as though the Holidays arrived way too soon. How did it get to be December already?

This time last year, Bob was still recovering from his little bout with open heart surgery. Everything went well with his recovery, and he went back to work at the beginning of the year. He completed rehab, and after jumping through some official hoops, the FAA even gave him a medical certificate, so he can fly again.

But before Bob resumed flying by himself, long suffering Pilot Sue flew him around with her. Sometimes she even let him steer and make Vroom noises.



**Don't mess with Pilot Sue!**

In April, Bob and Pilot Sue set out on a well deserved vacation adventure in the Groton, Connecticut area. While Bob visited the Coast Guard Academy and the Navy Submarine Base, Pilot Sue attended multi engine school, and in just three days, became Multi Engine Pilot Sue. We celebrated by attending Survival Systems ditching and water survival school, and learning how to fight a fire in a plane, how to ditch the plane (after the fire), and how to escape the sinking airplane after it hits the water and turns upside down – in the dark – when the closest exit doesn't work – and the other person in the plane is unconscious. What fun! We were pleased to learn that we could do all of this stuff, even though we hope we never have to do it for real. We even had time to visit the historic Mystic Seaport and to eat our

weight in fresh seafood of every description.

Bob is so proud of M.E.P. Sue for taking on the challenge of getting her multi-rating in a very short time. It wasn't easy, and when she started, she wasn't sure she could do it (although Bob was sure she could). She worked very hard, and impressed her examiner with her excellent performance on her check ride.



**MEP Sue after her successful multi engine check ride.**

While Bob was grounded, he spent many weekends working with our ace mechanic restoring the airplane we bought just before Bob went into the hospital last year, our Cessna O-2A. In July, Multi Engine Pilot Sue and Bob went to Oshkosh in the O-2A, and they had fun flying it around Michigan in October on the Michigan Air Tour.



Bob gets awarded in his new white sailor suit.

Bob has kept busy with his Coast Guard Auxiliary job. He even won a couple of CG awards, and was named Auxiliarist of the year by Group Detroit. Long suffering Pilot Sue has been unbelievably tolerant of all of this.

So life on our little Island Paradise has been pretty good this year. We're both relatively happy and healthy, and our goofy cats continue to keep us entertained.

We wish all of you a very Happy Holiday season and a safe and prosperous 2005.



PILOT BOB, PILOT SUE,



"Honey, there's a hairball in the sink!" – Tootsie checks the plumbing.

Is Booger in the dryer because it's nice and warm, or does he want to go for a ride?

TOOTSIE AND BOOGER.  
Too

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