

# Happy Holidays and Season's Greetings!

Greetings from our island paradise & from our rural paradise, everyone! We hope you had a great year!

This year started with a bang. Lots of bangs, actually, the banging of hammers, as renovation on our farmhouse got underway. Here, Sue peeks in at the mess as demolition is underway. It was quite a project.



Our crew gutted the interior of the house, ripping out everything. Walls came down, the chimney came down and lots of old, "farmer framing" came out. Many structural repairs were made, and plumbing, electrical and HVAC were upgraded to current standards. The floor was repaired and refinished (no more shag carpeting) and new wallboard was installed and painted. Finally, new trim was installed and detailed.



The kitchen started like this. Very early '70s, eh?



And for a while, everything was like this. All of the light colored wood is new. These were repairs to the many structural issues uncovered when the walls were opened up. This is just about the time we were wondering "My gosh, what did we do?" But by now, we were in too deep to quit!



It finally turned out like this! And we couldn't be more delighted! Everything is new and modern, yet it's still a traditional old house. It's really the best of both.



The SPV Star Flyer, our favorite little sailboat.

In the midst of the farm construction project, we took a little vacation. We hopped on our little sailboat and took it through the Panama Canal. Our trip took us from the west coast of Costa Rica, through the Canal to St. Maarten.



Locking through the Panama Canal. It was really a neat experience to transit the Canal on a sailing ship.



The famous Maho Beach on St. Maarten. The airport runway is right next to the beach.



Autumn hoarfrost coats the trees at the farm. Now that the house is refurbished, we're trying to spend as much time at the farm as possible. We'd love to see you up there, too!

You can see more photos of this year's adventures at [rshafer.zenfolio.com](http://rshafer.zenfolio.com) or just go to [www.rshafer.net](http://www.rshafer.net) and follow the links. Follow our adventures on [www.facebook.com/robert.shafer](http://www.facebook.com/robert.shafer) and/or [www.facebook.com/susan.t.shafer](http://www.facebook.com/susan.t.shafer) too!

We wish you a most joyous Holiday season and a safe, healthy and prosperous New Year!

**Sue & Bob,**

*Booger & Tootsie*