

*Hi You Guys!!!!*

*Hope all is well, back there in gods country. Texas .)*

*We are still in New Zealand , we are supposed to have all the repairs done and put the boat back in the water Wednesday, we hope. The weather is not very favorable for going northeast towards Tonga and Nuie, the really bad storms come from that direction the more we get into their winter. Hopefully we will find a weather window when its time to leave. Kelly and I just arrived back at the boat yesterday we had been on a five day tour of the east coast wine country, Kelly likes his wine, so we have been on some wine tours and I must say I drank my share, but still dont have the finer appreciation for wine. I do like Gewurztraminer wine, which is my favorite, but I just think I have a finer appreciation for good beer. We drove about a twelve hundred and fifty kilometers on the wrong side of the road, doing about hundred kilometers per hour; you talk about confusing for an old Texas boy. That part of New Zealand is known as the fruit basket of the country, it is a beautiful green fertile country. Lots of sheep and Kiwi fruit, that I found out its official name is a Chinese gooseberry. We spent some time in Napier, which was destroyed in 1931; it was New Zealands worst natural disaster, an earthquake that killed two hundred and sixty people. They built it back in the style of the day, which was Art Deco so they have an unusual down town tourist area. If you like spectacular scenery and very friendly people, this a great place to visit. They have quite a few Maoris in the north Island , not as many in the south Island it was to cold for them down there. We have been to a lot of museums since we arrived here and the Maoris dont have a lot of recorded history as they dont have any written words so their history is passed on by word of mouth, kind of like the American Indian. A lot of history goes back from when Captain Cook came here.*

*I see a lot of people are getting into the face book thing. And I appreciate all the little comments from friends and family sent to me on face book, It is fun to find out how some old friends are doing. I know some people have as many as seven hundred friends on face book,, makes me feel downright unsociable, I only know about twenty people. Anyway take care of your selves*

*I will write again soon when I have some news.. See ya John*