



RIP Jeff Morris, You Will Be Missed

Wednesday August 2nd – A few days ago we got some sad news. My brother's dad Jeff Morris passed away. David and I are half brothers but we've never thought of each other that way, we are brothers 100%. Although Jeff was not my dad he played an important role in my life while growing up. I had a connection to him that was more than just my brother's dad. This was heartbreaking news and not expected. I wanted to be there for the funeral and for my brother, so Julie and I booked a seaplane flight back to Seattle.

We left Grace Harbor and headed back to Prideaux Haven through the now fully smoke engulfed islands. (south wind was now blanketing the area with smoke from the wildfires in BC) Briana's friend Sean was flying in today and Julie and I were going to fly out. Prideaux Haven doesn't have any docks so we anchored our boats and stern tied them to shore. Todd and Tami were such a big help. Not only did we leave our boat tied to theirs for the 2 nights we would be gone but we also left our kids with them. Thank you guys so much!

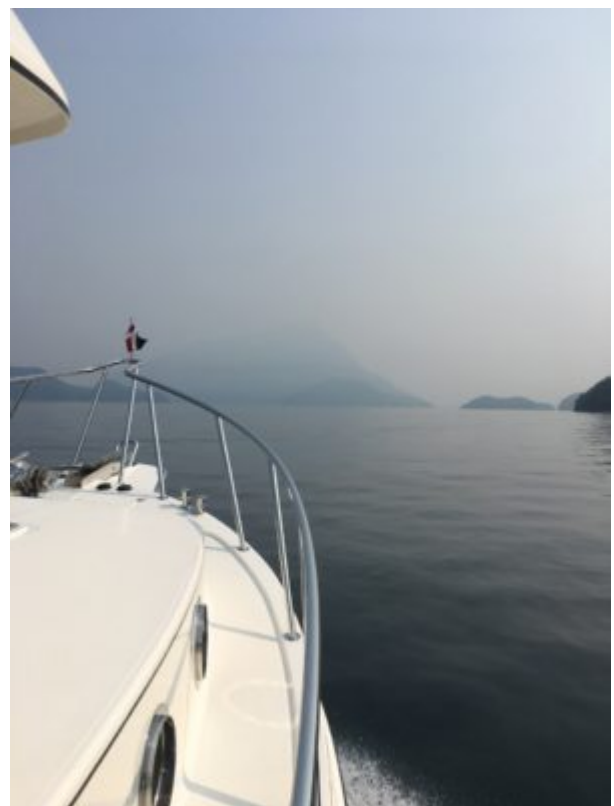
The kids swam in the water then at 5:30pm our Kenmore Air

flight buzzed the bay and landed just outside. Our bags packed, we jumped in Todd's dinghy where he delivered us to the seaplane. After a couple stops along the way to pick up other passengers, we had a smoke filled 2.5 hour flight back to Kenmore WA. Even with the smoke it was a beautiful flight. We took an Uber to the Hampton Inn in Renton right by where our Northwest Seaplane flight would be leaving to go home.

The funeral the next day was really nice with a full military ceremony that paid respect to the time in the service Jeff spent. We sure do appreciate Jeff's sacrifice to keep our country free! Even under these circumstances it was nice to see friends and family. After the ceremony everyone got together for dinner and to talk about memories. Jeff's family put together a very nice memorial table that was really fun to look at. RIP Jeff Morris, you will be missed.



Leaving Grace Harbor in the fog, AKA Smoke!

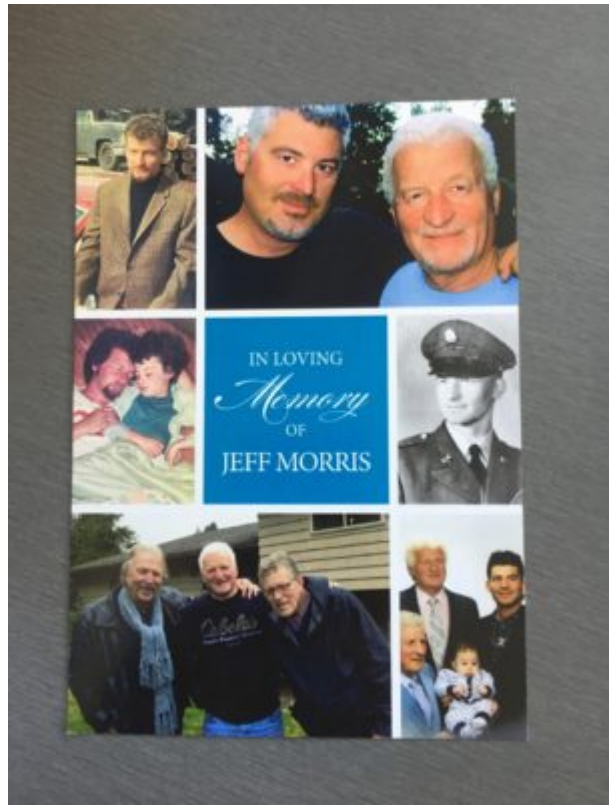
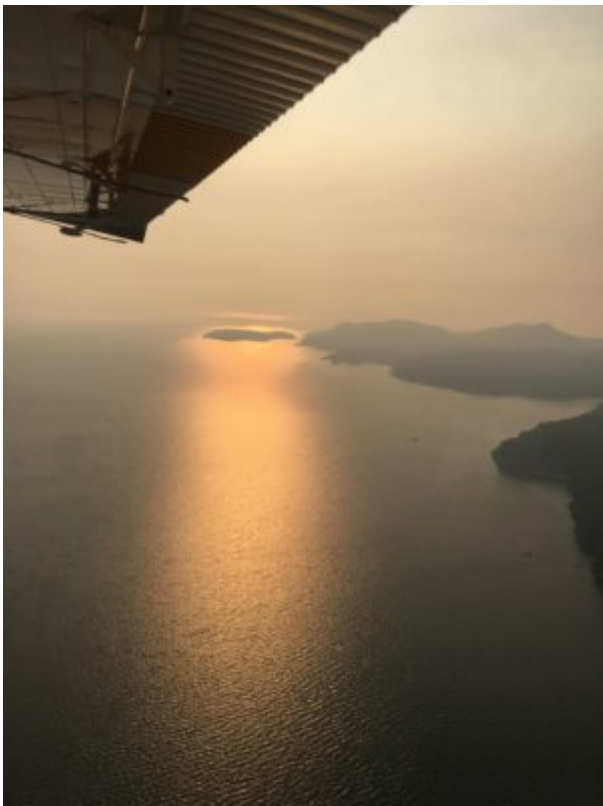
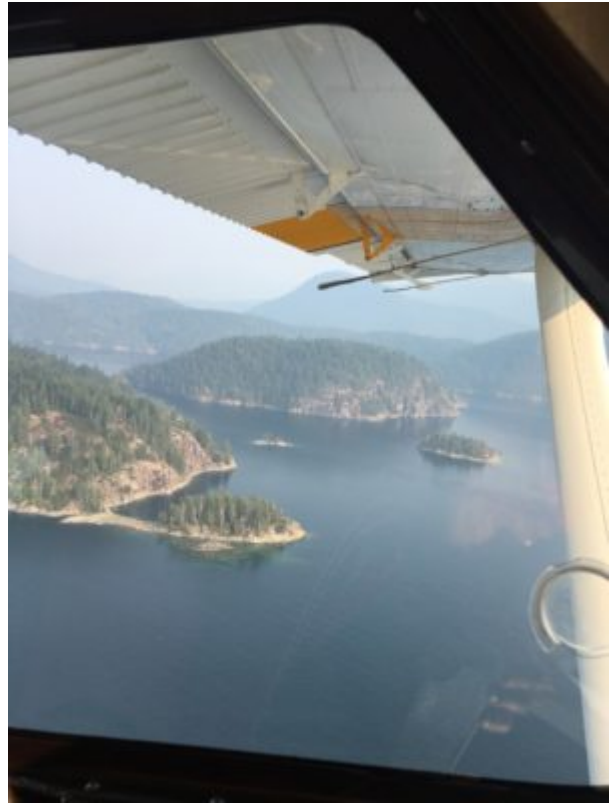
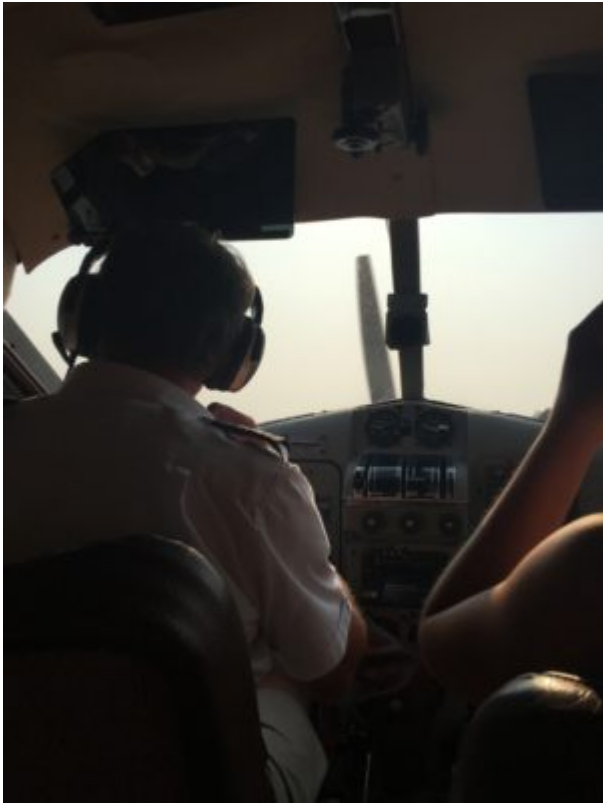


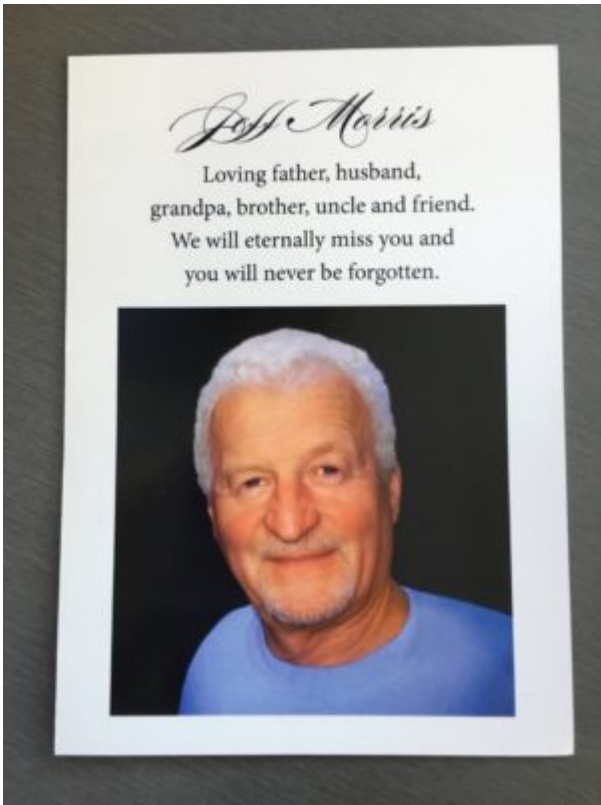


Sean, Briana & Ava



Taking off





Very nice memorial table



Flooded Kayak

Monday July 31st – Bruce and Gloria headed to Campbell River for a couple nights to get some fuel and restock some essentials while our boat and the Steel's went back to Desolation Sound for some warm water. But first Todd had to do a phone conference out on the water where he could get cell service and then take his cousin and family back to Lund. We departed a couple hours before the Steel's and took their daughter Briana with us cruising at a moderate 9 knots all the way to Grace Harbor where we anchored and stern tied.

Grace Harbor is off Malispena inlet and provides great protection along with endless small islands and coves to explore. After settling in we blew up the "green thing" (that's what we call the green raft like thing in the pictures) and all went swimming.

We took the dinghy for a spin around the harbor and met the Steel's coming. We circled them in the dinghy just for fun then got them tied up along side our boat. Skylar and Zach went strait for the rope swing for a while then they convinced us to let them run out of the bay in the dinghy alone to fish. We agreed with strict instructions and handed them a VHF radio so we could communicate. Their diligence paid off! A while

later they brought home dinner in the form of a nice Lingcod!
Nice job boys!

The next day, Todd was still hurting and confined to the boat so Tami, Julie, Briana and I took the dinghy out for a cruise. We decided to make our way to the lagoon for some swimming. Zach and Skylar were paddling in the kayaks so rather than make them paddle all the way to the lagoon we tied them to the dinghy and towed them all the way there. They couldn't help themselves but to be silly, rocking their boats, splashing each other, and trying to get the kayak to run down the dinghy wake. Of course Skylar took it too far, got the kayak sideways and flipped it over spilling him in the sea and filling the kayak with water. Working together we managed to pull the kayak up enough on the dinghy to empty most of the water while Skylar tread water waiting for his dry ride. But the funniest thing was watching him try and get back up in the kayak from the water. It was hilarious, we all just laughed, providing no help at all but he finally made it back in. We all swam in a beautiful lagoon then headed back to the boat.

The boys took off fishing again trying to find the same spot that provided the Ling yesterday. They found it and caught an even bigger Lingcod this time. They were proud of their catch and best of all they did it all on their own.



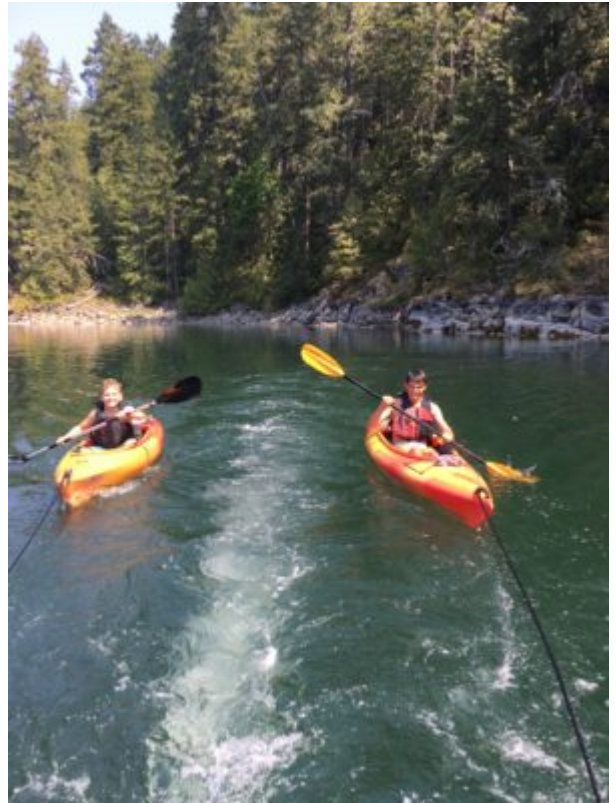




Deformed antlers



The Steel's on their way in to Grace Harbor



The tow just before the flood







Ava and Briana



Beaches & Back Injuries

Sunday July 30th – After 2 nights at The Cut we set a course

for Manson's Bay on Cortes Island. Julie did some research and this bay sounds really cool. It's a little exposed to the south but the weather forecast was good so we decided to make the 20nm run to check it out.

After arriving in the bay and motoring around a bit, we found it was going to be a little tricky to anchor in. It's deep, 80 feet, quite a bit deeper than the anchorages we are used to. We tried one spot that was about 60 feet but the anchor seemed to just skip across some rocks. Back to the 80-foot area we set out 225' of anchor chain that seemed to hold really well.

We sat on the boat for 30 minutes or so making sure all was well then took the dinghy to a huge lagoon. This thing is massive and the water was clear. It was running out of the lagoon like a lazy river with multiple pathways around small islands. Ava, Skylar and I took a nice (and cold) swim floating down the "river".

Our anchorage that night ended up being great. The sunset was awesome and Skylar could catch small rockfish right off the boat.

The next morning we were scheduled to meet back up with our friends in Gorge Harbor just 3.5nm away. But first, we decided to hike to a lake we read about. After a short dinghy ride and a 1-mile hike we made it to Hague Lake. This was an incredibly beautiful lake with a white sandy beach. We all relaxed in the sand and swam in the lake.

Back at the boat we pulled anchor and headed through the narrow waterway that opens up to a large bay with Gorge Harbor Marina nestled in the bay. After getting tied up we went to the pool while waiting for our friends to come in. They arrived and we met them on the docks learning that Todd had severely hurt his back a couple days before. He was confined to a chair just trying to keep things stable while his back heals. While we were away Todd had done a little shrimping.

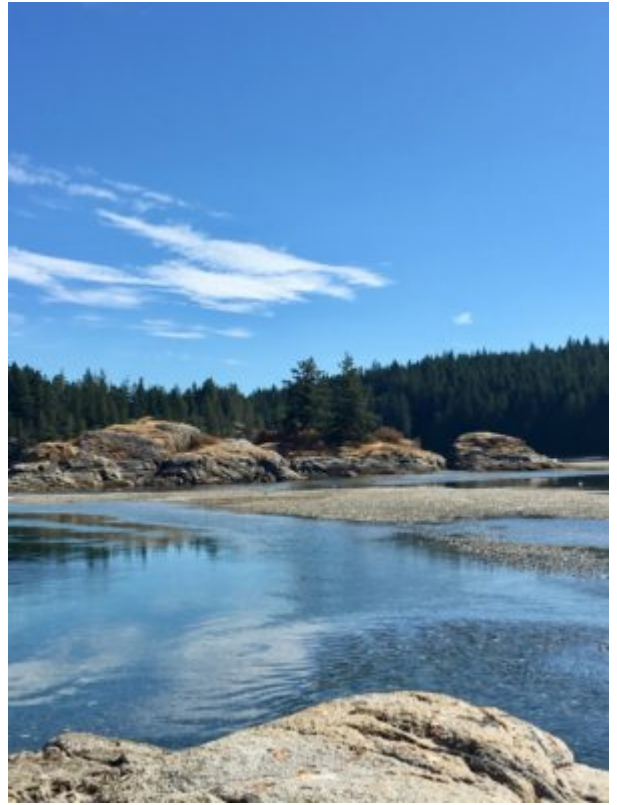
Our boat had the only shrimp pot puller so he was forced to pull the shrimp pots from 400' below. He was fine for a while then everything locked up with some serious pain. The only saving grace was that the pots had a lot of shrimp in them but that probably also contributed to his injury. Thankfully, after a lot of rest, his condition improved dramatically over the next several days.

We went to the small grocery store and stocked the boat then the four of us had dinner at the Gorge restaurant that evening.



A crazy cliffside boardwalk







Manson Bay public dock







White sand beach at the lake





Pool time at Gorge Harbor



View of Gorge Harbor



