

## Lasley Holiday Letter - 2020

This year started off brightly with a January visit from all the youngers for Late Christmas. Jacqui and Oliver and Derby were joined by Ben and Yanessa and Tristan. The house was rocking with laughter and filled with good food. Tristan may have been spoiled a bit. Derby too.

We bought a sailboat! Let's rewind a little. At the end of the 2019 sailing season, we realized that the only reason we didn't own a boat was because of Laura's call schedule (and previously, the kids activities). Since her new job was mostly regular hours, with no night or weekend obligations, we would have time to enjoy a real live-aboard sailboat. In October '19 we went to the Annapolis Boat Show for the first time ever. In addition to exploring all the new boats, we found a broker that we really liked. We had a list of requirements (length, style, age, features) which the broker sync'd up with immediately. In November and December, we saw a nice collection of used boats (never buy a new boat!), and quickly identified the one we really wanted. Note: Laura preferred an old school classic like a Sabre or Tartan, but the cabins were all too short for Dan. Introducing **baji-naji**, our Dufour 382, built in 2018.



We've known the name for our boat for almost 20 years (it comes from a scifi book), and now we have the boat to carry it. We agreed on a price and went for the inspection and sea trial on a balmy Monday in February. Everything was good, and we closed in early March. We never expected to find an almost new boat for such a good price.

In parallel with this, our soccer team won the "Top of the Bottom" championship for the second season in a row. Plus our band was really kicking ass. We had 10 gigs booked for the first half of the year, which is our normal total for a full year. We were getting into new venues, and people were coming out just to see us. It was fantastic.

