



2019 год

строим наше будущее
Building our Future

Last December, we bought land to build our new home in a small, friendly town at the Northern end of the Caucasus mountains in the wine country of Southwestern Russia. The town is nestled in the forested foothills and is famous for its hot springs and healing mineral waters. A river and some forest separates us from the main motor and railways keeping the traffic noise to a minimum. But it is only a few minutes drive to get to them and they provide easy access to places near and far. The capital city of the region and its international airport are a comfortable drive to the North. To the South we have relatively close access to the coastal beaches. Winter there is mild with only a couple of inches of snow and summer is tropical with frequent light rain.

This year has been spent with the adventure of designing our new house, getting it approved, and coordinating with the builders through our wonderful translator, Nadia, and our multi-talented lawyer, Natasha, who is also our construction team leader in Russia.

Our first adventure was fitting our needs into a practical house appropriate for the size of the property, our budget, and style of the local community. Once the building permits were issued, our team began digging for the foundation. Only then was it discovered that although our land is firm, the water table was much higher than it was a couple of months before, probably due to heavy rains the past winter. This caused a short delay, but our quick thinking team redesigned the foundation and used pilings that were easily available to make it much more secure. Work has continued since without any major problems. The house is currently about half finished with an estimated completion date around June 2020. If you are interested in following the progress, we are regularly posting photos of the construction at this link:

https://durandinterstellar.com/photos/Our_New_Home/

Nadia, our translator, is an independent English teacher and we will be working with some of her students and others as native American English Speakers. Our background is valuable as most of the English taught in Russia is British English. We will also be teaching those who are interested our engineering skills and how to conduct business in general.

We are in the process of minimizing our business in California to facilitate relocating to where we will have a larger office and a better machine shop. We will be continuing our regular business in our new location as soon as we get settled. Most of our clients aren't local to us in California, so the main issue will be the time difference (11 hours from California) and the currency conversions. We will maintain our bank accounts in the USA and Australia to minimize concerns for our customers.

As time permits we are continuing our Russian language lessons. We still have a lot to learn, but thanks to regular communications with Nadia, we are learning a lot about Russian culture, food, and traditions, which is as important as language in getting along in our new community.

***Hope you and yours have a happy holiday season
and best wishes for the new year!***

С Новым Годом!

Jerry & Sharon Durand

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