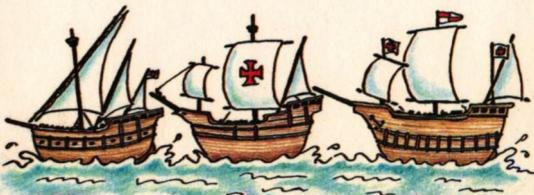


# We're Leaving!

Well...As Queen  
Isabella said to Columbus  
as he courageously set forth  
on a brave and  
selfless journey across the  
angry waters of the Atlantic  
into the vast and perilous  
unknown--



On June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020, we officially closed our business, we didn't quite make it to 40 years. We can officially blame it on the virus scare as it, one by one, closed all our better customers. Amazon, for an unknown reason, also started de-listing our products. So, all in all, business income vanished to almost zero. Just as well, the timing was good, since a business just doesn't close down quickly... lots of paperwork to do and loose ends to tie up, along with the ever present taxes. We left our business bank account open until it was no longer needed. We will keep our personal bank accounts in the USA open for paying taxes, etc.

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, we shook hands on the deal with the buyer of our house. On July 11<sup>th</sup>, we filled out the broker's forms and sent them off. On July 15<sup>th</sup>, we filled out the escrow forms and sent them in. After many messages to the escrow company and a last minute dash there to pay a fee we weren't told about, the house sale closed and we received the down payment. A month later the escrow company says the sale did close, but they didn't send us the papers for quite a while after that.

The Russian border opening date kept getting postponed so we rented the house back from the buyers until early April 2021. Then we drove to Champaign, IL, stayed with friends until the end of June, drove to Springville, AL to stay with another friend until early August 2021. We finally boarded a plane in Atlanta, Georgia on August 13<sup>th</sup> and left the USA. After changing planes in Germany and Moscow, we arrived in Krasnodar the next day to be greeted by Nadia and Natasha. From there we were driven to Goryachiy Klyuch where life has been hectic with all the things to do.

We are now in the process of reviving our business in Russia!



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