

## Leaving California

On June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020, we officially closed our business, didn't quite make it to 40 years. We can officially blame it on the virus scare as it, one by one, closed out 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, 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'll have to leave our business bank account open to pay taxes and other bills probably through January. And we will keep our personal bank accounts here for the same reasons.

But, we will revive our business in Russia!

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 hadn't gotten around to sending us the papers. They'll do it real soon now, hopefully before we leave.

We did eventually receive the house sale paperwork at the end of July.

The Russian border was still closed at the time but it was supposed to open the beginning of September.

It didn't, make that the end of 2020.

December arrived, border opening moved to the beginning of March. This led to a problem as our house sale terms had us leaving by the end of December. We made arrangements with the buyer to let us stay until the end of March, 2021. Surely the border would be open by then.

As we got closer to March we started making final arrangements with the moving company and went into final sorting of what we would ship vs what we'd leave behind.

March arrived, the border was still not open and now no estimate as to when. As we had to leave the house soon the moving company did an estimate of the shipping costs and container size needed and set a packing date of 29-30 March.

The house buyer approved of us staying a little into April to allow us final packing of our car and leaving.

Friends of ours offered to let us stay with them so when the movers left we had our car serviced and inspected (it was due for registration renewal). When that was done, we changed our official address to friends in Los Gatos who will handle all our paperwork and then we finished packing the car and drove off on an extended vacation.

Here at our friend's place we wait for the border to open, and now, our Russian visas will be expiring soon. But, since the border is closed, they won't issue new ones without a special invitation from the Russian government. We tried for that but were turned down 3 times. So, when they start issuing visas again we need to leap into fast mode to get new visas issued, receive FBI background checks, have those stamped by the US State Department, get tickets on an airline, dispose of things we brought with us that don't fit in the suitcases... and finally leave for HOME!

When will this be? Russia has a word for that, **скоро** (pronounced "skorro" like Zorro). It translates simply as "soon" but when said with the right context is taken to mean "in the future". It could be a day, week, month, ???

If you ever want to talk with us live, our old phone number, +1 (408) 356-3765 still works and we intend to keep it up even after we move to Russia. It will ring wherever we have access to WiFi. A call just came in on it a few minutes ago from someone selling house remodeling in Los Gatos.

We both have WhatsApp, Telegram, Signal, and VK accounts. Sorry, no FaceBook or Twitter. Ask us for contact information if you want to use one of the above instant messaging apps, some even support free voice calls.

Of course e-mail works anywhere, any time.

Contact information will remain the same:

[jdurand@durandinterstellar.com](mailto:jdurand@durandinterstellar.com)

[sdurand@durandinterstellar.com](mailto:sdurand@durandinterstellar.com)

+1 (408) 356-3765 VoIP

Hopefully the next update is announcing the border is open and our visa renewal is in progress.

**до свидания**  
(da svadonia)  
(until our next meeting)

Jerry & Sharon

Somewhere on the road...

