

### **300-48 Steve and Janet Simonsen**

**Janet and I landed on St. John after being chased from St. Thomas by hurricane Hugo in 1991. We moved into the house that Tom Lang built out of recycled material from the original 5 cottages at Gallows Point (1984). The Trayser's had the lease and we sublet until we took over the lease. 11 years later we were offered to buy it. We secured two loans, one for the land from the bank and the other from Tom Lang because we couldn't get insurance for a wooden home. We later consolidated the loan and paid it off 4 months before hurricane Irma blew the house away in September of 2017. We've been thru 20+ hurricanes in our 32 years at 300-48 Great Cruz Bay. We rebuilt our home in the two years after Irma and moved in on our 30th wedding anniversary November 12, 2019. While we were building the house we were refugees of the storm and lived in two different homes in Great Cruz Bay, thanks to generous neighbors that saved our existence on St. John. We came to our building site every night after work to see what the builders had done that day. We were in total disbelief that we would one day have a beautiful house on Great Cruz Bay Rd, and we kept referring to our house as "A great house" so we named it The Simonsen Great House.**

**Editor's note: Tommy Lang was a younger member of our association. Not only did he build his home from left-over Gallows Point materials but he was often seen water skiing in the Bay.**