

## Pat's Biography

Pat was born in 1939 in Oban, Scotland, the second child of two photographer/pharmacists. She attended St. John's elementary school in Oban, then completed 7 years of secondary education at a Quaker boarding school (the Mount) in York, England. In 1960 she graduated with B.Sc. (Hons) in Chemistry from the University of St. Andrews, Scotland. By now she had developed a love of the sea and sailing, and had experienced an ocean dismasting one college summer. Following graduation, she was accepted into the Ph.D. program but instead took a job as a lone female research chemist at ICI Ltd. in Billingham, Yorkshire. Later, she spent a year teaching high school chemistry in Leeds, England, during which time she got married. Emigrating that fall (1962) with her new husband to the US (Ithaca, NY) she gave birth to first one then a 2<sup>nd</sup> son. In late 1964, the family moved near Buffalo, NY, and adopted a third child, a 7-month-old girl.

While raising her little ones, Pat studied secondary science education part-time at SUNY-Buffalo. In 1972 the family moved again, this time to the Washington, DC, area. Fortunate to be able to be a stay-at-home mom, Pat got involved in her spare time doing civic activities with the League of Women Voters, church, etc. In 1979 she also got hooked on computers, and found herself staying up 'til the wee hours with a new TRS-80 and its tape-recorder storage device - before the advent of disk drives. Later she became active in the Democratic Party, and in 1983 ran as its unsuccessful nominee for Chairman of the Fairfax County (VA) Board of Supervisors, incidentally gaining the endorsement of the Washington Post. She subsequently chaired the local Democratic Committee for two years and served on a bunch of boards and commissions. As her kids grew older, she found paid employment with the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) in its DC-based Government Finance Research Center (GFRC) at which point she embarked on a career in public finance and management.

After her marriage broke up in 1986, Pat moved to Richmond and worked for 5 years in senior positions first in the Virginia Treasury and then the Virginia Medicaid agency. A highlight was attendance as Virginia's representative at the JFK School of Government (Harvard's) Summer Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government. In 1991, she moved back to DC as Deputy Director of the mammoth DC Department of Human Services (DHS) under the new mayor, Sharon Pratt Kelly. At the end of the mayor's term, she returned to GFOA to direct the GFRC, now based in Chicago. Soon after a year passed she concluded the Chicago move was a mistake and so returned to DC to, among other things, help her former boss at DHS start up a new non profit (Covenant House Washington) to assist runaway, homeless, and otherwise suffering 16-20 yr-olds. She renewed her long-forgotten childhood dream of sailing afar, and acquired *Tempus Fudgeit*, a Pearson 27', in which to hone her skills. In 1999, after turning 60 she took up running, and that fall completed the Marine Corps Marathon, finishing in the middle of her age group. She retired from Covenant House in 2001 and with Bill embarked on the cruising life aboard *Callipygia*. The rest is history—or at least it's documented on this web site.

Pat has many interests: (1) kids and grand kids; (2) keeping fit and flexible in body, mind, and spirit; (3) trying to make life better for the planet and its inhabitants; (4) roaming around in the natural environment; (5) birdwatching; and (6) inspired by Bill's guitar work, playing duets with him on the recorder. Oh yes, she's currently at work on a children's novel and also spends a lot of time developing and maintaining our website.

*February 26, 2007*