

Holiday Greetings 2017 and Best Wishes for 2018



The Jaffrey Meetinghouse (1775) which got a new wood roof this autumn. The photo on the left shows the old roof being stripped (September 21); finishing up on the south side (September 29); and upon completion (November 3). I oversaw this ca. \$75,000 job and raised most of the money to pay for it. With this done I'm thinking of retiring from the Meetinghouse Committee after 20 or so years.



After the SouthPole-sium in Oslo in May, Shane Murphy and I went up the Norwegian west coast in one of the Hurtigruten ships. One leaves Bergen every evening for the several-day voyage. We got off at Tromsø. That round ball marks the Arctic Circle.



Here I am flanked by Jim McAdam and Joe O'Farrell at the Maritime Heritage Weekend at Rosses Point, Co. Sligo. It was held at a pub, a perfect venue. During some free time we visited W. B. Yeats' grave.

Rob Stephenson, P. O. Box 435, Jaffrey, NH 03452 • 603-532-6066. 603-532-7653 Library
rs4l@comcast.net or rob@rs4l.org • www.antarctic-circle.org • www.rs4l.org

Some 2017 trip photos:

<https://rs4l.smugmug.com/Travel/Norway-May-2017/>

<https://rs4l.smugmug.com/Travel/Hudson-River-Valley-New-York-August-2017/>

<https://rs4l.smugmug.com/Travel/Thanksgiving-in-California-2017/>

This year's cartoons: www.rs4l.org/cartoons2017.pdf

THE first batch of shortbread just went into the oven—two more to go. And yesterday we had our first snowfall. So it's beginning to feel like Christmas. ¶ ALL is well here in Jaffrey. Much of my time in recent months has been spent on the Meetinghouse roof. Work began in September on replacing the deteriorated cedar shingles with new Alaskan Yellow Cedar shingles which we hope will last 50 years. I won't be around to find out. There was a lot of money to be raised from grants and donations but we did it. ¶ I CAME out of my annual physical in February with a diagnosis of AFib. All I knew about it was what I picked up from those Arnold Palmer TV commercials.



Here I am at the Post Office just having unveiled the Little Library I designed and help build. The doors show the real Jaffrey Library. It's proving quite a success.



Thanksgiving dinner beside the Pacific at my brother's house in Carpinteria. We watched surfers from the deck. Quite a change from the usual New England setting. Afterwards I continued up the coast.



In the back room of O'Briens, one of Ireland's great pubs across from the Heritage Centre in Athy. The man with the tie is the equivalent of Paul Ryan—speaker of the Irish parliament.



Judith, Frank O'Brien's daughter, who's now the publican. Her vest is made from her father's neckties. Frank passed away in April.



Kilkea House where Shackleton was born. Frank Taaffe always leads a tour of Shackleton Country on the Bank Holiday Monday. The present owner told us all about it.

I'm on medication indefinitely and feel reasonably OK but long walks, particularly uphill, are mostly things of the past. 🏴‍☠️ BUT that didn't stop me from traveling here and there: The first trip was to Oslo where I put together the third *SouthPole-sium*. Our venues were the Fram Museum (including a banquet aboard the *Fram*) and the Norwegian Maritime Museum. This was topped off by a cruise up the west coast of Norway. In August I took a multi-day bus tour of the Hudson River Valley. I figured

the only way I was ever going to visit some of the sights/sites on both sides of the river was to do something like this. There were some other Jaffrey people on board so it worked out fine. In October I took my now annual trip to Ireland to attend the polar gathering in Athy and to do a little planning for the next *SouthPole-sium* set for Dublin in 2019. My last excursion was out to California to spend Thanksgiving with my brother John and his family: His wife, Lucy, and their three boys and spouses

and six grandchildren. Some of these I had not met before. 🏴‍☠️ I'll be in Hingham, Massachusetts, for Christmas and will soon be planning a March-April trip to Florida for a SIAFU reunion, people I traveled through Africa with back in 1972. 🏴‍☠️ I've been successfully downsizing over the past year—nine pick-up truck loads to the dump so far! I'm hoping to move into *Rivermead*, a "Lifecare Community" in the next town, in a couple of years. 🏴‍☠️