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Jackie Graese and how she became a Seldovian!

by Mary Glover



Jackie Graese, wife of Fritz Graese, has been coming to Seldovia for eleven years. This is her story. Jacquelyn (Jackie) Dux Fritz was born in Alexandria, Virginia. She is the daughter of Michael and Viola Dux. Michael Dux was employed by the State Department in Washington, D.C. and worked as a foreign service officer. Jackie has one older sister. They lived in Virginia until Jackie was six years old when her dad was stationed in Madras, India. Jackie's early life was very different. She was used to riding on elephants, looking for tigers and, at one time, was chased by a troop of monkeys! Jackie's mom worked for the National Institute of Health in Maryland, but when the family went abroad, Viola was a homemaker. Viola also home schooled Jackie and her sister with the Calvert Correspondence System. As diplomat's wife, Viola, was responsible for entertaining and managing a busy social calendar. They lived a couple of years in Madras and then moved to New Deli. In New Deli, Jackie and her sister went to an American school. Subsequently the family returned to the United States and her dad's job caused the family to move every year. For four years Jackie attended a different school.

Jackie and Fritz have three children: Nicole, Mike and Kurt. Nicole teaches piano as she has a Masters Degree in Classical Performance. Mike works in Evergreen as a project engineer for a construction company. Kurt just completed his AP License and he hopes to come back to Alaska to work. The big news is that Jackie and Fritz are going to be grandparents in January as Nicole is expecting!

When asked how Fritz and Jackie came to Seldovia, Jackie said, "It is a long story." Fritz has a friend named Jack in Cooper Landing and Jack asked Fritz to visit him in Alaska. Fritz fell in love with Alaska! He started contacting some real estate agents. He was looking for property on the water. He contacted Judy Johnson. Later, Judy Johnson showed Seldovia property to Fritz, Jack and Fritz' son, Mike. Fritz had a video camera and taped the property and its views. Jackie said the video was "so beautiful." They came to Seldovia on Labor Day and saw the property for the first time. This just happened to be the day which was scheduled to sign the closing documents! The property they purchased

Upon approaching her high school years, her dad was assigned to Germany. Jackie and her sister went to an American international school in Vienna. Her option for high school was either a military school or a boarding school. Jackie's parents opted for the boarding school because they did not want Jackie and her sister to be exposed to the "wild life." According to Jackie, the boarding school was "very strict" and not a fun place to be.

When it came time for college, Jackie had a friend that wanted to go to Colorado State University in Ft. Collins, Colorado. Jackie applied, was accepted and to her surprise, her friend ended up going to another college in Pueblo, Colorado. Jackie went to Ft. Collins "all by myself!"

Jackie met Fritz during college and they got married shortly after Jackie graduated. They lived in Loveland for three years and then moved to Sterling where they purchased an auto salvage business. They ran this business for twenty-five years. Five years ago they entered into the auto glass business and closed the salvage yard. They are currently working on getting things in order and selling everything in Colorado.

is the last house before the turn off to Outside Beach. You might have seen their home as there is a large boat in the yard. It is next door to the former Missionary Baptist Church. They have a great view of Lake Irene which flows into Outside Beach.

When Jackie was asked what she likes about Seldovia, she responded: "I like the wildlife---the otters and all the birds. It is so beautiful here. The people are friendly too."

Jackie and Fritz manage to stay busy. Fritz has a fishing charter business called the [Alaskan Grace](#) and has many good fishermen friends. Jackie and Fritz certainly are a great addition to our Seldovia community.



Fritz Graese (left) and Red Kvarford (right) in 2004.
The young man (middle person, approx. 15 years old) caught the huge King, his first time out charter fishing on the *M/V Mad Viking*.