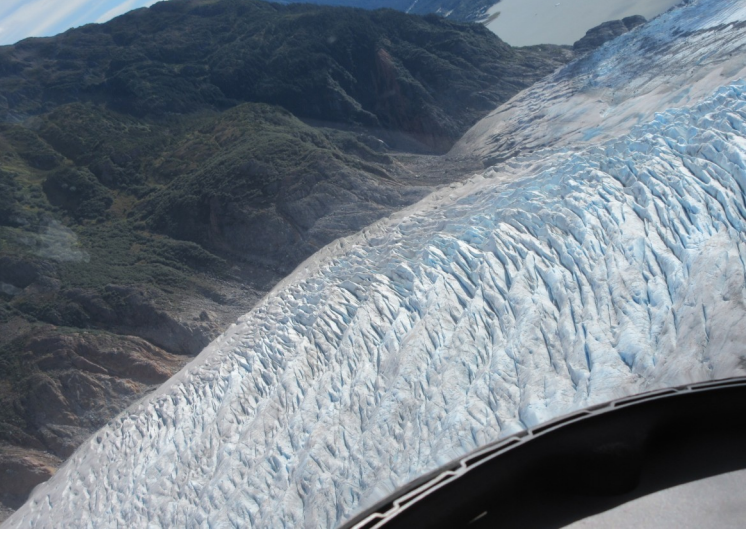


This was by far the most fun Labor Day, ever!!! We boarded the Grand Princess on 9/29 for our 10 day cruise to Alaska, via the inside passage. After a couple of days at sea, we docked at Juneau. Following Juneau, we stopped at Skagway, Glacier Bay, Ketchikan and finally on the way back, we stopped at Victoria before returning to San Francisco, Ca. The following pictures were taken from the air and our landing on the Glacier. Note the blue ice! We had special over-shoes with spikes to keep us upright on the ice! On the lower right, we traveled by train and bus to view some of the interior sights.



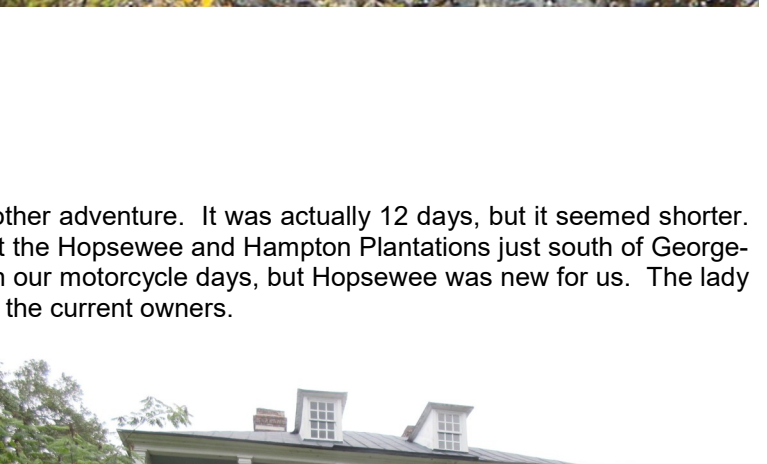
Our second Alaskan port of call was Skagway, where we rode the White Pass & Yukon Railroad that climbs to nearly 3,000 feet with beautiful scenery. Building the RR was quite an accomplishment. It was built as the only life line for the gold miners, but the gold rush ended shortly after completion. We rode up to White Horse by train and back by bus. Below is a railroad bridge constructed over a gorge - quite an engineering feat.



Below we are entering Glacier Bay. The first glacier we come upon is Margerie Glacier. We were told that this Glacier is *retreating*. The upper right picture is of a glacier calving. The next picture on the right side is of the Johns Hopkin's Glacier. We were told that this Glacier was moving forward or *advancing*. We lucked out in getting to see this glacier as the area was closed all Summer due to the baby seals being present that needed protection from large ships coming into the area. It was opened September 1st and the Captain piloted the ship into the glacier himself. The National Park service actually came on board to give talks and were available for questions.



Some pictures of Alaskan wildlife. On our way back to San Francisco, we saw between 20 to 30 whales fairly close to the ship. Quite a sight! Needless to say these pictures only scratch the surface. We met many passengers who were on their 3rd, 4th and even 5th cruise to Alaska!



It seemed we were barely back home when we were off on another adventure. It was actually 12 days, but it seemed shorter. This was day trip with Robin McCall of Storehouse Tours to visit the Hopsewee and Hampton Plantations just south of Georgetown. We had been to Hampton a few times, once even back in our motorcycle days, but Hopsewee was new for us. The lady giving the tour actually lived in the house prior to it being sold to the current owners.

