

John Jerrard Spouse



I am retired and live at Pumzika, a house on a mountaintop in the Shimba Hills in Coastal Province of Kenya. I am 70 years old and spend my time writing historical novels and building retirement homes. I go to London every year for three or four months and I live on a Dutch barge moored in Canary Wharf.

History:

Age 12 - 17: Educated in a minor public school in Essex where my most significant achievement was getting an RAF flying scholarship which gave me a pilot's license which I upgraded to a Commercial Pilot's License.

Age 18 to 22: I got a job flying DC3 aircraft around the deserts of Arabia for Aden Airways, an airline owned by the British Government whose principal role was to provide air transportation between the many hundreds of Sheikdoms throughout South Arabia. Later when Britain left Aden, conceding South Arabia to the Yemen, Aden Airways was wound up and I was paid off.

Age 22 - 27: With this cash I purchased a twin-engined Cessna 310 aircraft and started an air-taxi company at Southend airport. Over the next five years I grew the fleet to six aircraft and employing 20 people - pilots, ground engineers, sales people and a fantastic operations manager whom I later married.

Age 27 - 36: I sold Southend Air Taxis to Drumbar Aviation and took my wife and two boys to Kenya where I joined East African Airways and flew with them for the next 9 years and I became a senior

captain. By the time I left East African Airways it had become Kenya Airways and I was flying 4-engine jets between Nairobi and London.

Age 36 - 38: I left Kenya and returned to London where I joined Laker Airways and flew for Sir Fred Laker as a DC10 Captain. We started the famous Skytrain service which offered transatlantic flights for £50 and launched the concept of affordable air travel that changed the world of aviation for ever. However we were probably too successful and Laker's were forced into liquidation in 1982.

Age 38 - 40: After the demise of Laker's and with few jobs for pilots in Britain (at that time) and following a disastrous 6-month experience in northern Nigeria flying pilgrims between Kano and Jeddah I decided to change careers. I re-trained in IT and worked as a Unix / 'C' language contract programmer for the next two years.

Age 40 - 50: Despite the astronomic rates that software developers were paid in those early days, after contracting for two years I accepted a fixed-price assignment from a mail-order company in Folkestone. They had an impressive 40K mail order customers and an antiquated manual system for managing them. I got on well with the MD and agreed to write a system for him for nothing which he would rent from me when it was complete. I took on another two programmers to help and a year later the system went live. It was very successful and both the mail-order company and my embryonic software company grew exponentially becoming the 18th fastest growing UK company and was described by the Sunday Times as 'One of Britain's Brightest Stars for the New Millennium'. During this time I discovered that it was better to hire inexperienced software developers who had a good attitude and train them in the skills I needed and this led to the basis of what was to become The FDM Group. This company was formed when I merged my company with Rod Flavell's in 1995. We floated on the AIM in 2005 and I retired and sailed off into the sunset

Age 50 - 60: I purchased a 50' carbon catamaran from Catana in France and for the next ten years I, together with my wife Lynn and our dog Harry, sailed La Graciosa all around the Mediterranean, America, Canada and Alaska and finally across the Pacific to Australia. During that time I wrote a semi-autographical book called 'A Cat's Tale' which was published on through Author's House on Amazon. I wrote another book entitled 'Sailing Away' which is a collection of amusing things that happen when you cut the ties and sail away and I wrote a number of articles for 'Sailing Today' magazine. I published all these on my website www.johnjerrard.com that I created using my first and middle names.

Age 60 - present: Following the untimely death of my sister-in-law in Kenya, Lynn and I sold our catamaran in Brisbane and came to Kenya where I still live, writing historic novels and building retirement homes overlooking the Mulwanji Elephant Reserve in the Shimba Hills.

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