

what's new

Member Musings

Sally and Oliver Miller have been Marinalife members for 2 years. Based in Port Washington, WI they are active boaters who love to travel with their dog, Marine.

How long have you been boating?

Both Oliver and I have boated for many years but started seriously cruising about 10 years ago, after moving to Port Washington, Wisconsin and buying a big enough boat to tackle the Great Lakes. We have since bought three bigger boats, including our current 47' Sabre.



Where is your favorite place to cruise?

Our favorite place to cruise always seems to be wherever we are at the time! We are most familiar with the Great Lakes but we love the Hudson River and last summer had a wonderful cruise from Sandy Hook, NJ up to Boothbay Harbor, Maine and back. We are currently in the Bahamas, which is beautiful cruising ground.

What do you look for in a marina?

Our dog, Marina, is a huge priority for us. We appreciate facilities that have pet areas set aside and especially those near parks or other large green spaces.

What is your best boating experience so far?

Our best boating experience is our current trip. We are so fortunate to be able to take 10 months to cruise America's Great Loop. We are currently in our 6th month and we have traveled over 2600 miles. We will complete the Loop when we reach the Statue of Liberty but will still have another 1400 miles after that before returning to Port Washington. (Look for further details about the Miller's trip in the Summer issue).

Can you share a favorite story?

One of the most interesting was on the Tennessee River, where a tow had pushed up onto the bank of the river, dropped a ladder over the front barge, and sent a crew member up to the restaurant to grab lunch for everyone. As we passed by, the tow captain asked us for a slow pass so that we wouldn't rock the boat. We have also loved all the sea life we've been able to see up close—dolphins, turtles, stingrays, manatees, numerous fish and even whales!



A visitor in Sandestin



What's New in the world of marinas—Marinalife provides the most up-to date information about new marina projects and renovations.

Key West Harbour Yacht Club, Key West, FL – A premier member in the YCOA network of private, luxury yacht clubs, Key West Harbour offers dry and wet boat slips for purchase. The property is situated on 25-acres of pristine waterfront at the mouth of the Boca Chica Channel where the Gulf meets the Atlantic. Along with buying fuel, food and beverages at wholesale, YCOA owners have access to the gourmet restaurant, deli, cocktail lounge, ships' store, pool, sauna, fitness center and more! *Opening Summer 2008.*

Hamilton Harbor Yacht Club, Fort Myers, FL – The 117,000-square-foot boat house contains 325 dry slips and is built withstand 150-mile-per-hour winds. The building accommodates vessels up to 50 feet long and includes a private yacht club and ship store. The project is expected to be complete in April 2008.

Hidden Harbour Marina, Pompano Beach, FL has been acquired by Aqua Marine Partners (AMP). The 6.7-acre site is home to a beautifully-designed marina conveniently located just minutes from Lighthouse Point inlet with no-fixed bridges and fast, easy access to the Atlantic Ocean and the Bahamas. All fill and dredge work has been completed and a building permit has been issued for a 310-boat dry stack marina. AMP plans on constructing a luxurious facility capable of withstanding up to 140 mile per hour hurricane-force winds. The facility will include a convenient ship store on site. The racks have been designed to hold boats starting at 31 feet up to 41 feet in length overall. *Opening Spring 2008.*

SAIL INTO SPRING!

Visit our Members favorite destinations

1. Charleston, SC
2. Grand Bahamas Island
3. Palm Beaches, FL
4. Hilton Head, SC
5. St. Michael's, MD
6. Cape May, NJ
7. Cabo, Mexico
8. Southport, NC
9. Key West, FL
10. Norfolk / Portsmouth, VA



Photos courtesy of Sally Miller.

Please send us your photos -- we may feature them in an upcoming issue.

SAFETY FIRST

A famous Yogi'ism states that:

“You don't know what you don't know until you know it.”

If you have never taken a boating class or if you have any doubts about your boat's safety equipment, call the members of your local United States Power Squadron (USPS).

The USPS is dedicated to boating education and safety. Its many local squadrons conduct classes that cover the spectrum of boating concerns. These include skippers' responsibilities, rules of the road, legal requirements, emergencies, marine environment knot tying and even tossing a line.

There are laws that establish standards for registering vessels and the minimum requirements for safety gear, but

even these miss some very important equipment. Excluded from the list of legally required items are: compasses, anchors, fuel gages, charts, mooring lines, first-aid kits, radios and other equipment essential to safe boating.

The USPS goes beyond this. They have the “Vessel Safety Check Program” under which the local squadron will send members to you who will assist you confidentially in learning whether your vessel meets United States Coast Guard equipment requirements. When standards are met, you receive a “Vessel Safety Check” decal, recognized by all local marine water enforcement officers.

The USPS will be happy to welcome you to the world of safe boating. They have the answers, even if you don't know the questions!

Thanks to Bill Hempel from the USPS for this information.

Visit usps.org for more information.

Easier Access to Travel Tools

Find marinas, book dockage, and access travel tools more quickly and easily with our reformatted website. With one click you can access the mileage calculator, tides and weather, port reports, reviews, and ratings. Still can't find what you're looking for? Email us at info@marinalife.com with your request and someone will respond via email or by phone with help.

Share Cruise Plans

Share your plans by simply clicking “Send Itinerary” located under “My Cruises”.

Trip Mapping

One of the most exciting new additions to our cruise planning tools is the “**View Cruise on Map**” feature. This interactive map outlines your entire cruise using leg numbers. It's a great way for your friends and family to follow along with you during your trip. This feature is found with every pre-planned cruise itinerary below the ending leg.



Joy Mcpeters speaks at the Trawler Fest in Stuart, FL.

Slip Maps/Approach and Buoy Information

Keep your eyes open for new tabs on the Marina Details page. We have added information that will help ease the stress of visiting a new marina. Now under the Maps/Charts tab you can find printer friendly Slips Maps for key destination marinas, directions by water, approach and buoy information, as well as the Maptech Mapserver.



Katie O'Connell works the Marinalife booth at the Miami Boat Show