

# Living on a sailboat in the City Marina Fort Pierce, Florida

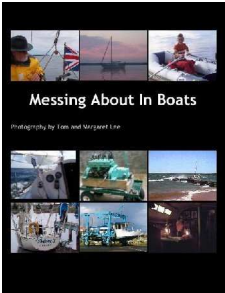
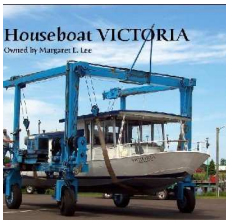
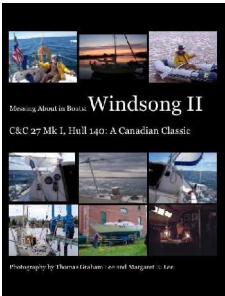
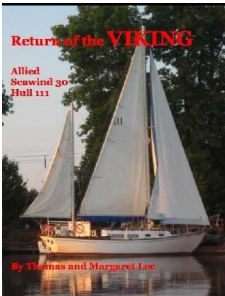
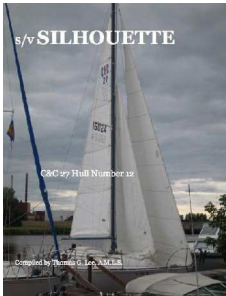
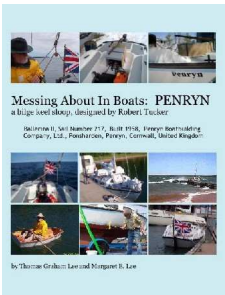
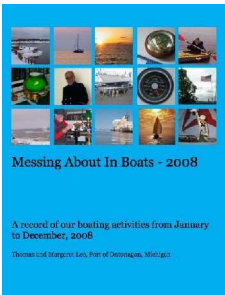
by Thomas Graham Lee, Librarian





Living on a sailboat  
in the City Marina  
Fort Pierce, Florida

Also by Thomas Lee:



Living on a sailboat  
in the City Marina  
Fort Pierce, Florida

By Thomas Graham Lee, Librarian

For a free pdf file of this booklet, please  
e-mail the author at:  
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**To**

**My Wife Margaret Carr Lee**

**who insisted I make this trip**

**Staff of the  
Fort Pierce City Marina**

**Anne, Craig, Dean, Erin**

**Freddie, Ken. Neal**

**Pat, Ryan, Whitney**

**and to the**

**Mayor of Historic Fort Pierce**

**Linda Hudson**

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**That's what a ship is,  
you know - it's not just  
a keel and a hull and  
a deck and sails,  
that's what a ship needs.  
But what a ship is  
... really is, is freedom.**

*~Johnny Depp as  
Captain Jack Sparrow*

Living on a sailboat in the City Marina, Fort Pierce, Florida



August, 2012



September, 2012



November, 2012



January, 2013

# INTRODUCTION

This is an account of my experience living on a small sailboat for about 6 months at the Fort Pierce City Marina, Fort Pierce, Florida.

On August 1st, 2012, I left the Port of Ontonagon, Michigan, on Lake Superior, on a 27 foot sailboat on a trip to the Fort Pierce City Marina. The passage took 74 days. I arrived at Fort Pierce on October 15 and tied up at K-Dock at the City Marina, my home until the end of March 2013.

As a librarian, I had done considerable research on marinas in Florida, and concluded that the City Marina in Fort Pierce would be the perfect place to spend the winter living on a sailboat. As it turns out, it is the perfect place. I am already planning how to come back next winter.

Thomas Lee B.S., M.A., A.M.L.S.  
Librarian

P.S. As you can see (left), I have changed over the months. For the better, I hope.



# **76 day passage from Ontonagon, Michigan on Lake Superior to Fort Pierce City Marina, on the Atlantic Coast of Florida**

I departed the Port of Ontonagon, Michigan on Lake Superior on August 1, 2012 and arrived at the City Marina, Fort Pierce, Florida on October 15, 2012, a passage of 76 days by water on a small sailboat.

The route: Ontonagon, **Lake Superior**, Houghton, Marquette, Grand Marais, Whitefish Point, Sault Ste. Marie, St. Mary's River, **Lake Huron**, Presque Isle, Harrisville, Harbor Beach, St. Clair, Detroit River, Detroit, **Lake Erie**, Put-in-Bay, Loraine, Fairport, Conneaut, Dunkirk, Buffalo NY, **Erie Canal**, Hudson River, Castleton-on-Hudson, Hyde Park, Stony Point, West Point, New York City, Sandy Hook, **Atlantic Ocean** to Atlantic City and Cape May, **Delaware Bay**, Delaware City, C&D Canal to **Chesapeake Bay**, Rock Harbor, Rock Hall, Deltaville, Hampton, Norfolk, **Intracoastal Waterway**, **Dismal Swamp Canal**, Elizabeth City, Belhaven, Oriental, Morehead, New River Inlet, Wrightsville Beach, Myrtle Beach, Charleston Beauford, Savannah, Isle of Hope, Fernandina, St. Augustine, New Smyrna Beach, Indian River, .... **FORT PIERCE CITY MARINA**, Fort Pierce, Florida.

**s/v WINDSONG**

**North Pier, K-Dock**

**Fort Pierce City Marina**

**1 Avenue A, Fort Pierce, FL 34950**

**[www.sailblogs.com/member/thegreattrip](http://www.sailblogs.com/member/thegreattrip)**

Malbourne  
Palm Bay

ATLANTIC OCEAN

Bassett Bay

**SEBASTIAN**

**VERO BEACH**

**FORT PIERCE**

**PORT ST. LUCIE**

**STUART**

Palm City

**HOBE SOUND**

**JUPITER**

**WEST PALM  
BEACH**



Turnpike

Turnpike



## **Fort Pierce on Florida's Treasure Coast**

The Florida Treasure Coast area is located on the east coast of central Florida, stretching from just above Sebastian Inlet down to North Palm Beach. The name TREASURE COAST comes from the grounding of the great Spanish Treasure Fleet of 1715, on the Florida coast. The Spanish Treasure Fleet of 1715 carried wealth of such opulence as to be almost beyond anyone's wildest dreams.

In 1715, two separate Spanish fleets joined forces in Havana, Cuba. They carried three years of accumulated New World wealth – gold coins, bars, chests upon chests of silver coins, emeralds, pearls and fine Chinese porcelains and jewelry.

On 24 July 1715, in light winds, the fleet departed Cuba for Spain. As the ships passed the Florida Keys and sailed along mainland coast of Florida, the weather began to worsen. In a letter dated 19 October, 1715, one Don Miguel de Lima y Melo wrote of the disaster that followed:

*The wind began to blow fresh from the ENE and taking a sounding we found we were in 50*

*fathoms of water. We were advised by the Captain, by a cannonshot and flags, to use what sails we could and head away from the coast until we were in deep water. But we were unable to do this because the currents were pushing us towards the shore and the winds were getting stronger, as being from the wrong direction for getting away from the shore. The sun disappeared and the wind increased and increased in velocity coming from the east an ENE. The seas became very great in size, the wind continued blowing as towards shore, pushing us into shallow water. Then the wind changed to a furious hurricane and the seas become of such great size, with huge waves and being in still shallower water we were unable to sail. It soon happened that we were unable to sail at all, making bare our yards, mostly due to the wind carrying away our sails and rigging, and we at the mercy of the wind and water, always driving closer to the shore. All the ships, with the saving of mine, broke to pieces. (Translate by Dr. Eugene Lyon)*

Being caught on a Lee shore in a storm still happens ...

October 29, 2012

### **HMS Bounty Sinks; 14 Crew Members Rescued, One Dead & One Missing**

Hurricane Sandy has claimed a famed summertime Duluth attraction, the tall ship HMS Bounty. The schooner reportedly sunk Monday morning off the coast of N. Carolina.



# Main Street Fort Pierce

**[www.mainstreetfortpierce.org](http://www.mainstreetfortpierce.org)**

Fort Pierce is among the oldest communities on the east coast of Florida with its rich history beginning in 1837 when Lt. Benjamin K. Pierce built the fort that was the headquarters for the U.S. Army during the Seminole Indian War. After the war Fort Pierce, its accessible waterways and later Flagler's railway gave rise to commerce that would make the city the economic hub of the Treasure Coast with fishing, canning of fish, pineapple and citrus.

In 2011 Fort Pierce was named a winner of the prestigious Great American Main Street awards from the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. established in 1988 as a public-private partnership, is a comprehensive revitalization program designed to encourage economic development in conjunction with historic preservation.

From a visitor's point-of-view, Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. has been extremely successful in restoring the historic downtown area of Fort Pierce. It is obviously an ongoing and difficult task. So far so good. I tip my hat to everyone involved.

Main Street Fort Pierce has promoted many downtown events, including Friday Fest, Sandy Shoes Festival and Sights and Sounds, along with other special events. Check out their web site, **[www.mainstreetfortpierce.org](http://www.mainstreetfortpierce.org)**, for a schedule of events.



**Winner of 2011  
"Great American Main Street"  
Award**

Great American  
Main Street Awards  
NATIONAL TRUST FOR  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION







## Coffee With The Mayor

December 21, 2012. Held in the historic Fort Pierce Old office building. (pictured left)  
As it turned out, this was Mayor Linda Hudson's first "Coffee With The Mayor" meeting since taking office as Fort Pierce's first woman mayor. I found it all very informative. I, of course, biked to the meeting. Mayor Hudson spoke about some of her goals as mayor. It was a good turnout. I spoke with Mayor Hudson, and gave her my custom Christmas card and told her I was living on a sailboat at her wonderful City Marina. As a visitor, this event made me feel that I was part of Fort Pierce. It was a good feeling. As a librarian I was pleased to learn that the mayor had been on the library advisory board.



Fort Pierce City Marina, Fort Pierce, Florida

## **Fort Pierce City Marina**

### **One of the best in the United States**

For a person from the North who wants to live on a sailboat in the winter for a few months in the warmer weather that Florida has to offer, K-Dock at the Fort Pierce Marina is the perfect place.

First, and most importantly, the staff is, in a word ... wonderful. The location of the marina to the historic town of Fort Pierce is a perfect situation. A year before I traveled to Fort Pierce by sailboat, I flew down to check things out. In my mind, I knew it was going to be place to stay. As it turns out, I was right.

Living on a sailboat in the City Marina, Fort Pierce, Florida



Here is a rendering of the islands and new docks to being added to the City Marina.



Sign showing Waterfront Protection Project

Living on a sailboat in the City Marina, Fort Pierce, Florida



Construction of barrier islands



The RED DOT is the location of WINDSONG

# New website for the Fort Pierce City Marina ...

**[fortpiercecitymarina.org](http://fortpiercecitymarina.org)**

The Fort Pierce City Marina has a new Internet web site that is very informative about not only the services that are available, but activities. The site provides rates and all the down-loadable forms you would need to live on a boat in the marina.

What I really like is the FORT PIERCE MARINA HAPPENINGS a e-mailed newsletter done by marina staff member Anne Maurer. It always is a good reminder of what is going on. Being old, I am kind of forgetful!







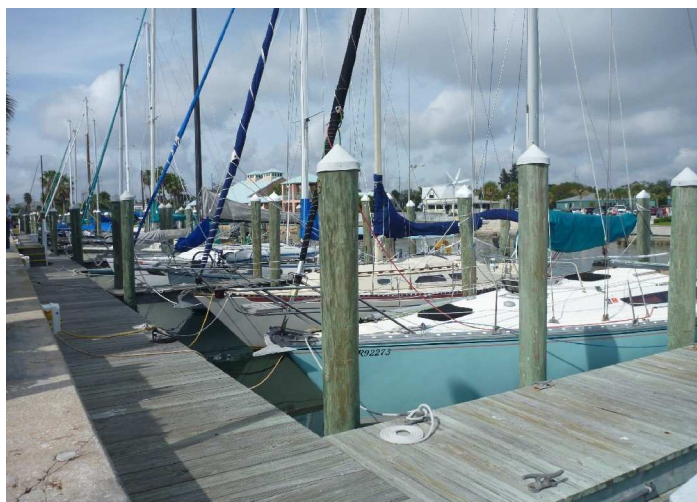




Living on a sailboat in the City Marina, Fort Pierce, Florida



North Pier Support Building: Restrooms, Laundry, Tables, South Drink Vending Machine



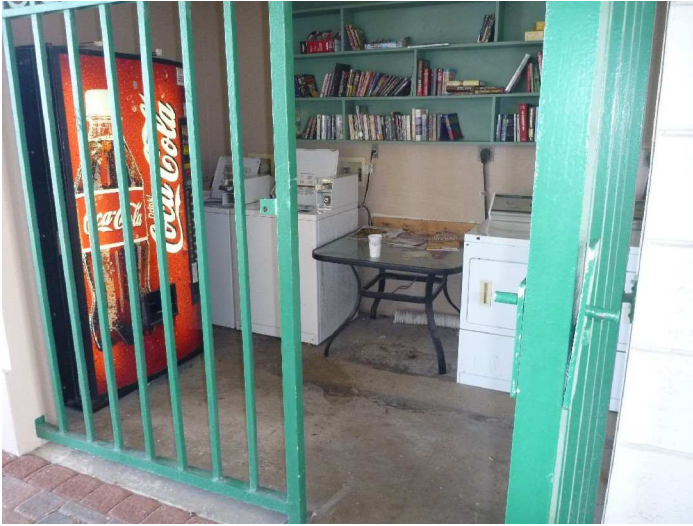
View down K-Dock. on Moore's Creek



Sunset at K-Dock.

## **North Pier, K-Dock**

On the North Pier of the City Marina is K-Dock on Moore's Creek, where there are 20 slips, all occupied by sailboats. Near the dock is a support building, pictured top left. It is fairly shallow, but I understand there are plans to dredge it. There are about six boats with people living aboard on a full time basis. I think that it is a perfect place to live on a sailboat for the winter. Everyone is friendly and helpful. Who could ask for more. I had no transportation, except my bike, but people often were kind enough to take me to more distant places.

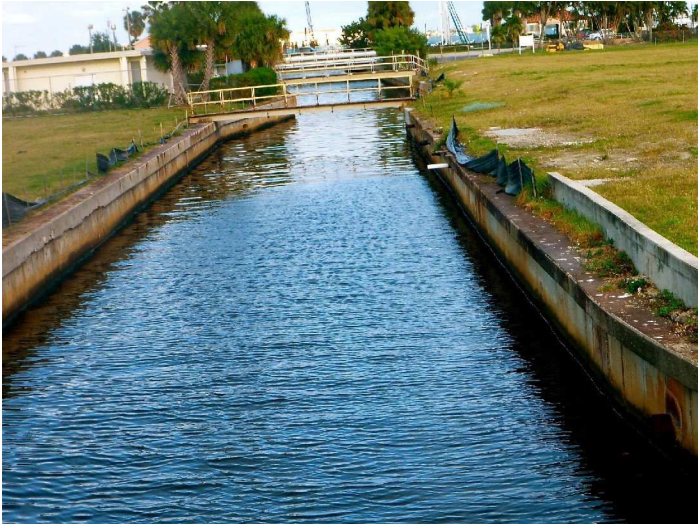


## **North Pier Support Building: Washer, Dryer, Soft Drinks, Library, Restrooms, Showers**

In the support building near K-Dock are two washers and two dryers, a soft drink vending machine, and a collection of donated books.

Cost to wash: \$1.50   Cost to dry: \$1.75

Also restrooms and showers. Everything is kept clean and in working condition.



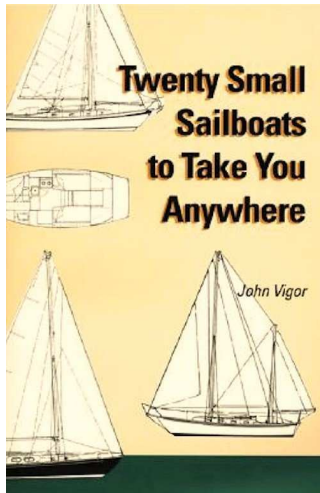
## Moore's Creek

Moore's Creek flows along K-Dock. Previously a power plant (now gone) was on Moore's Creek. The fresh and warm water was the reason that the Manatee Observation Building was constructed across from the K-Dock. While living on WINDSONG I have seen quite a few manatees. Visitors to the Manatee Center often come across and stand on K-Dock looking for manatees. One day a large group people ran down the finger pier next to WINDSONG ... a manatee was right at WINDSONG'S stern.

Living on a sailboat in the City Marina Fort Pierce, Florida



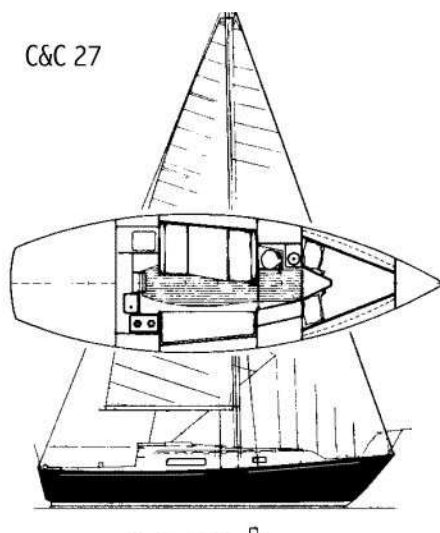
Tom Lee (with beard and bibs!)



## Live Aboard Tips

As you will see, I am a believer in the advantages of living on a small boat, for a number of practical reasons. Check out ***Twenty Sailboats to Take You Anywhere*** by John Vigor.

While there is a tendency for people to get larger and larger boats, I started with a 50 footer, that I built years ago, and went smaller. A 27 foot sailboat like WINDSONG provided good live aboard conditions, with a few inexpensive additions.



## Windsong II, C&C 27

For her size, a C&C 27 has an excellent layout for living aboard. She has full headroom throughout the salon. She is perfect for one or two persons, plus a cat! More importantly, for a older boat she sails fast and can point close to the wind. She has a simple rig than can be easily handled by one person. Like most sailboats built in the 70's, she was built strong and can take a few bumps. She has minimal bright work above deck which makes maintenance easy even in a salt water environment.



WINDSONG on her trailer in Ontonagon, Michigan

## Trailer for WINDSONG II

Most of the boats on K-Dock are captive to a marina. That is to say, they are too large to be easily moved except by water. WINDSONG has a special trailer that on whe she an easily towed by a truck. When I leave Fort Pierce to go north for for the summer, I will just go to a marina that has a Travel-lift, drop the mast, and put her on her trailer... and she's ready to go back to Lake Superior. How good is that!

## Living on a sailboat in the City Marina, Fort Pierce, Florida



Easy refrigeration, a "college dorm" inexpensive 120v refrigerator put in forecabin.



Small microwave installed in galley.



My antique toaster. Perfect way to start the day.  
And, of course, oranges!



Salon in WINDSONG. Table with oil lamp and couch.

## **Heat: Force 10 Heater , Small Electric Heater, and Oil Lamps**

It doesn't take much to heat a small sailboat like WINDSONG. For serious heating I have a Force 10 kerosene heater. It is pressurized by a small hand pump. It can even be used when the boat is sailing.

At port, however, a better choice is a very small electric portable heater. I got one on sale at the Ace Hardware near the marina. It works perfectly and is safe to use. Since WINDSONG has a number of oil lamps, they also work well to take the chill off, as well as providing a wonderful atmosphere. A lot of newer boats don't have oil lamps, which is unfortunate. WINDSONG's cabin table light is a piece of art.



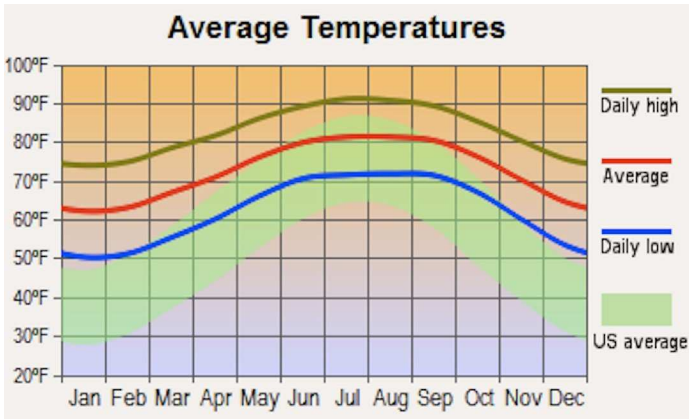
Small electric heater



Force 10 Paraffin heater



Oil lamps



## Fort Pierce Weather ... Great! Wonderful!

For a person that for years has spent winters wearing a red union suit, Carhart bibs and insulated boots, weather in Fort Pierce is a big change for me. There is almost always a nice breeze on K-Dock, that keeps WINDSONG cool. Only on rare occasions a small electric was all that was needed in the evening.

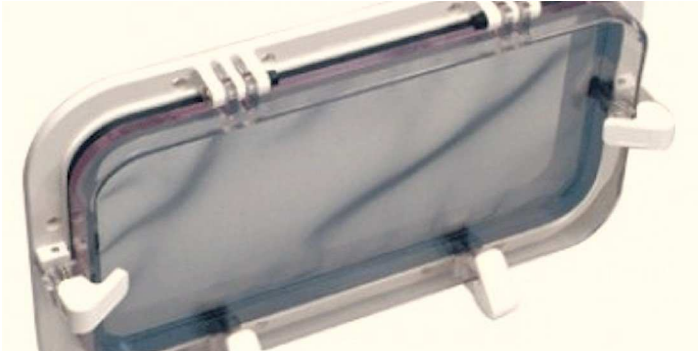
Living on a sailboat in the City Marina, Fort Pierce, Florida



Small electric fans. Cost: about five dollars each.  
They are quiet and effective.

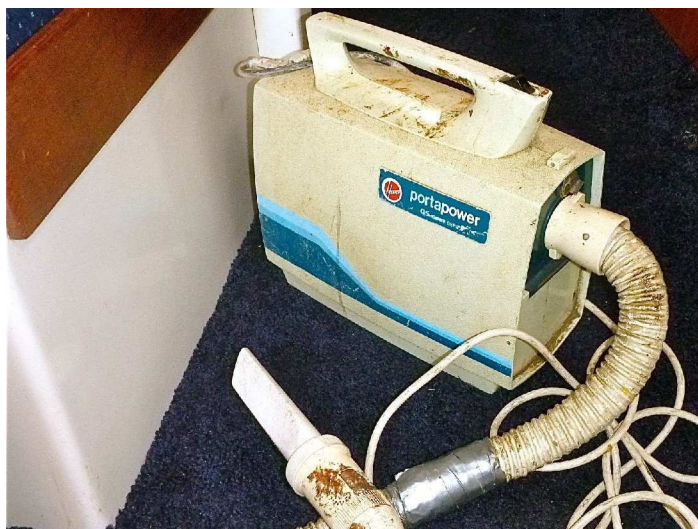


Wind scoop forces air down the front hatch.



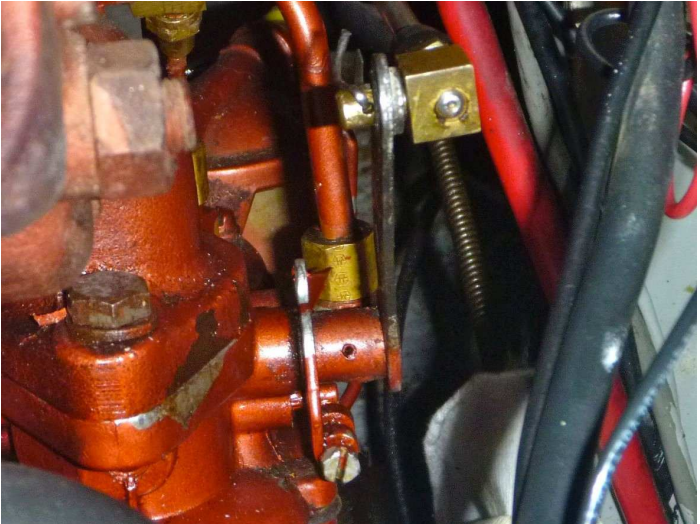
## **Cooling: fans, wind scoop, opening port lights**

In a Florida winter I have found that I had no trouble in keeping WINDSONG comfortable. All portlights should be able to open. In many stock sailboats, the port lights (windows) are fixed. They should be replaced with opening ports. A relatively inexpensive choice are Beckson Ports. I have also used two inexpensive electric fans. They make a big difference and easily moved. If there is a breeze (common at Fort Pierce) my hatch wind scoop is effective. Good ventilation also prevents mildew problems. I have had none.



## Daily Interior Cleaning - keeping everything ship shape

A place for everything and everything in its place and don't put it down, put it away. This routine is import when sailing and also living on a sailboat. Every morning I check over WINDSONG to see if everything has been put away and then I vacuum the sole (floor). Another good habit is to bring nothing aboard if it not absolutely needed. My only exception ... the Sock Monkey!



## Care and feeding of the Universal Atomic 4

As part of WINDSONG's upkeep, I start her Atomic 4 engine every other day. I also keep the fuel tank (gas) full. I also use SEAFOAM as a fuel stabilizer. I run the engine to operating temperature and shift in forward and reverse. If an engine could speak ... it would say, thank you!



## Polishing the Brass

Unlike many of the newer sailboats, WINDSONG has quite a few brass oil lamps. These include a number of cabin lamps. Most of these are the classic *Yacht Lamps* and *Atlantic lamps*. All have gimbals. The safest lamps are the Yacht Lamps that can be used under sail. Another lamp is a large anchor light that can be hung low on the boom. It can be seen much better than a small light at the top of a mast. The most decorative lamp is a large hanging lamp over the table in the salon. From time to time they all have to be polished and re-filled with lamp oil. As first mate the Sock Monkey is in charge.



## Living on a sailboat in the City Marina, Fort Pierce, Florida



My folding bike with milk crate carrier. Good for carrying heavy items, like bottled water.





I ordered this inexpensive bike on the internet. It came by mail and marina staff delivered it on their electric cart.

## Transportation & Fitness

A bicycle is a must. I have two. A Citizen folding bike (that can be carried on WINDSONG) and a new trail bike. This gives me transportation not only to local stores but it is also part of a fitness regiment. I am up every day at seven and bike for an hour. A wonderful way to start the day. It is important that your bike is ALWAYS LOCKED with a security chain. A small back pack is needed.



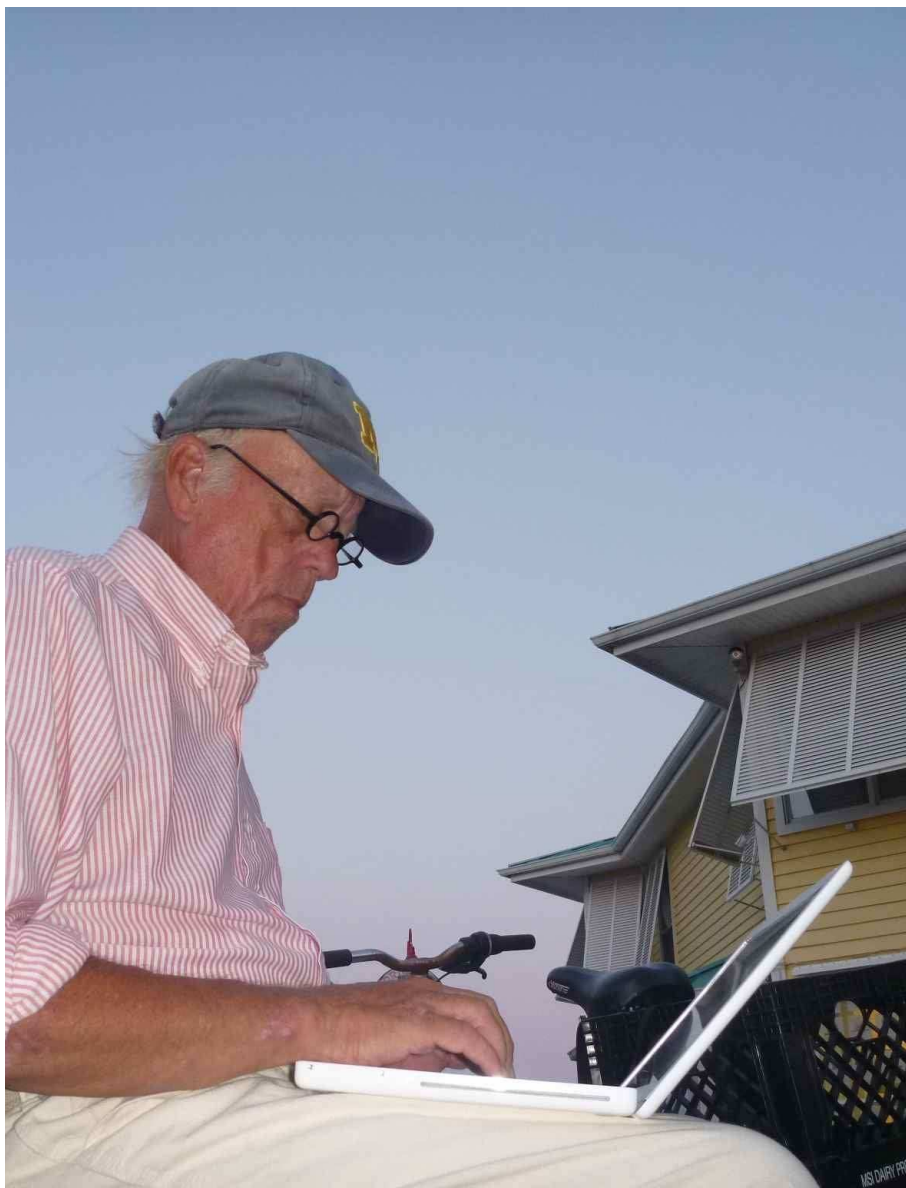
## **Flip-Flops, White Trousers w/button suspenders, Shorts**

I never thought I would end up mainly wearing flip-flops, shorts and a tee-shirt. Except for special occasions the long pants have remained in the hanging locker. On my early morning bike ride I wear a big Michigan sweat shirt that I found at Goodwill. I have not worn socks and regular shoes for weeks. I do have with me a tuxedo, just to be "be prepared." I am after all an Eagle Scout!



## Wi-Fi (Wireless Fidelity)

The Fort Pierce City Marina provides an open Wi-Fi network for Internet access. A fair signal can be picked up on K-Dock. For stronger signal, one needs to get closer to the Marina Office. The tables in Marina Square south of the office is a good place to work if the sun is not too bright. The Public Library, across from the marina, also has a open Wi-Fi access. Cobb's Landing also has open access. The bench between the Marina Office and Cobb's is a good place to sit.



Very strong Wi-Fi connection can be found closer to the marina office. Here I am, catching up on my e-mail and listening to music coming from the TiKi Restaurant. A nice place to chat with people walking by.

Living on a sailboat in the City Marina, Fort Pierce, Florida



Incoming mail closet. Outside of entrance to gift show. Packages kept in the office.

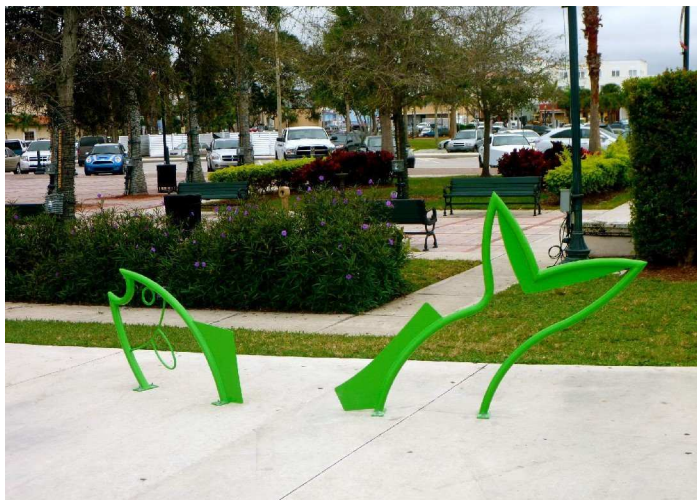


Nearest full service post office to marina.

Living on a sailboat in the City Marina, Fort Pierce, Florida



Unique bicycle racks. In front of Marina Office



New fish sculpture. Good place to secure a bike.

# Activities, Nearby Stores, Events, etc...

There are many things to keep a visitor bust in historic Fort Pierce. Here are just a few.





## **Saturday Market - Stock up with fresh food for the week**

The Saturday Market is wonderful weekly event in the Marina Square. Not only can you buy all sorts of fresh vegetables and fruit, but there are a wide assortment of food vendors. Music is also provided by a small band.

It is a wonderful opportunity to improve your diet. My favorites: green beans, sweet corn, asparagus, broccoli, and or course, oranges.







**DELICIOUS CREPES**

**GOURMET! OMELET STYLE**  
 EGG \$5 CHEDDAR  
 YOUR CHOICE OF = BACON, HAM, MUSHROOM, SPINACH for \$6.00  
 ADD EXTRA FOR 11.00 FOR ANY EXTRAS OF ABOVE

**ALSO = WITH OMELET**  
 GROUND AMERICAN BISON AND/OR RATATOUILLE for \$8.00  
 TOPPED WITH YOUR CHOICE OF CHEESES  
 CHEDDAR, SMOKED GOUDA, ASIAGO, PARMESAN

**MENU**  
 SWEET 'n' FRUITY CREPES

BANANA NUTELLA \$6.00  
 STRAWBERRY NUTELLA \$6.00  
 ULTIMATE NANA 'n' BERRY NUTELLA \$7.00  
 THE RON SPENCER BLUEBERRY CREAM CHEESE \$7.00  
 APPLE CINNAMON RASIN \$6.00  
 SWEETER WITH ADD Pure honey  
 Powdered sugar? organic maple syrup

**ARTISAN STYLE CREPES**

RATATOUILLE \$8.00  
 IS = FIRE ROASTED TOMATO'S (ONION, EGG PLANT, PEPPER'S, ZUCCHINI)  
**AMERICAN BISON**  
 WITH RATATOUILLE YOUR CHOICE CHEESE  
 OR AN Egg ALL FOR \$8.00  
**CHICKEN CAESAR**  
 ALL WHITE MEAT CHICKEN, OVER A BED OF BABY SPINACH \$8.00  
**PULLED PORK**  
 YOUR CHOICE OF CHEESE'S  
 CHEESE'S ARE = \$8.00  
 CHEDDAR, SMOKED GOUDA, ASIAGO, PARMESAN

**THE FINEST INGREDIENTS**

MADE WITH LOVE





Living on a sailboat in the City Marina, Fort Pierce, Florida



Honeybells from Al's Family Farms, Fort Pierce  
at the Saturday Market, Marina Square



Honeybell Oranges --- GREAT!

## Honeybell Oranges

Honeybell oranges are exceptionally sweet and juicy citrus fruits which only reach peak ripeness during the month of January. Also known as Minnesota tangelos, Honeybell oranges are not actually oranges at all. They are a hybrid or cross between the Darcy variety of tangerine and either the Duncan or Bowen variety of grapefruit.

This hybridization process, which some sources say can be traced back to the ancient Orient, yields a tangelo with the coloring and size of a grapefruit and the sweetness and juiciness of a tangerine.

Honeybell oranges are prized for their sweetness and relative scarcity, along with their abundant supply of juice. The Honeybell crop reaches maximum ripeness during the last weeks of January, or possibly early February. **Virtually all Honeybell orange trees in the United States grow along the Indian River in Florida**, and the crop yield is often regarded as unpredictable from year to year. Growers take orders for the oranges throughout the year, but can only harvest the crop during January and February.

Great care must be taken while harvesting Honeybell oranges in order to avoid damaging the distinctively bell-shaped stem end of the fruit, which actually inspired the name for the fruit itself.

**They became available at the Saturday Market in late December.**



## **Wednesday Green Market and Food Co-Op in the Marina Square**

This is a new and smaller market on the Marina Square from 2 to 6 on Wednesday. Every week is gets bigger and more organized. A musical group provides entertainment. Since I have a vegetable steamer in the galley, I can always find something fresh to buy.





## Saturday Craft Show

Across from Marina Square and the Library there is a large craft show from eight in the morning to two in the afternoon. There is a wide assortment of items for sale, from books by local authors to wood carvings, straw hats, clothing and jewelry.

Living on a sailboat in the City Marina, Fort Pierce, Florida





## **Friday Fest - First Friday of the month - Marina Square**

On the first Friday of the month, FRIDAY FEST is held on the Marina Square. It includes many food booths and features live music. It is always a big crowd. I look forward to it every month.









**SEASIDE SMOOTHIES**

Strawberry and Pineapple \$4.00	<b>Piña- Colada</b> \$4.00	<b>Berry- Berry</b> \$4.00
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Latin Festival on Marina Square



Jazz Concert on Marina Square

Living on a sailboat in the City Marina, Fort Pierce, Florida



# Bike Night Fort Pierce, FL



Living on a sailboat in the City Marina, Fort Pierce, Florida



Fort Pierce Trolley



Friendly pelicans.

Living on a sailboat in the City Marina, Fort Pierce, Florida



Pelicans on the sea wall, Marina Square.



Sea gulls and a few pelicans being fed.

Living on a sailboat in the City Marina, Fort Pierce, Florida



Marina Square. The site for all kind of local events.



## Living on a sailboat in the City Marina, Fort Pierce, Florida

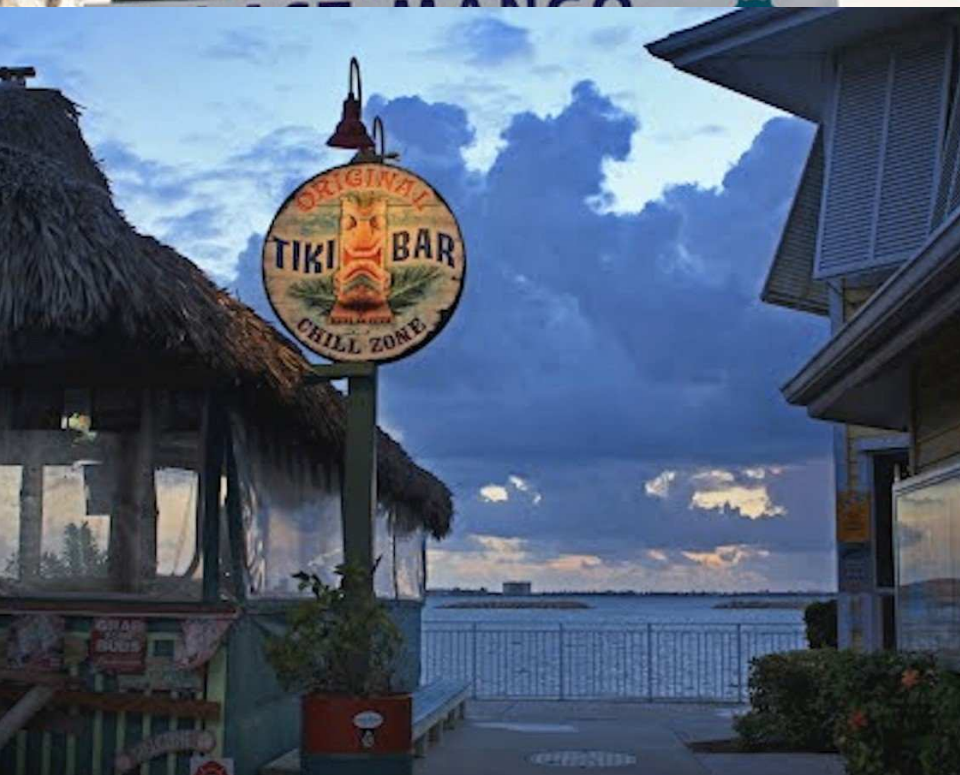


Marina Office and Gift Shop





65' CAPT. LEW  
561-231-8192







## Small Details Count

It seems important to mention things that have impressed me about Fort Pierce. The historic city is wonderfully landscaped and kept in perfect condition by city workers. Every morning I say hi to workers who are getting things ship-shape! Dumpsters are hidden from view artistic enclosures, lawns are edged, and the Marina Square is vaccumed. A lot of thought has gone into the design of signs.





## Nearby Stores to the City Marina

Here are just a few of the stores that are easily accessible by bicycle from the City Marina. It is obviously difficult for city to maintain a downtown district. To their credit, Fort Pierce is trying hard.

Living on a sailboat in the City Marina, Fort Pierce, Florida



Brewer's Cafe



Living on a sailboat in the City Marina, Fort Pierce, Florida



## IMPORTICO'S BAKERY AND CAFE

The bread from Importico's Bakery that is sold at the Saturday Market on Marina Square is just too good. They have a shop and cafe about a block from the marina.

Here are some of the types of bread available every Saturday:

**FRENCH BREADS:** Baquette, Mini Baquette, Epi, Ficelle, French Dinner Roll, Caraway Rye, Country Oblong, Country Round, Rustic Oblong, Rustic Round, Six-Grains, Whole Wheat and Bran Loaf, 100% Whole Wheat.

**ITALIAN BREADS:** Ciabatta Oblong, Ciabatta Round, Mini Ciabatta, Italian Bread, Italian Sub Roll, Semolina Horseshoe, Semolina Round.

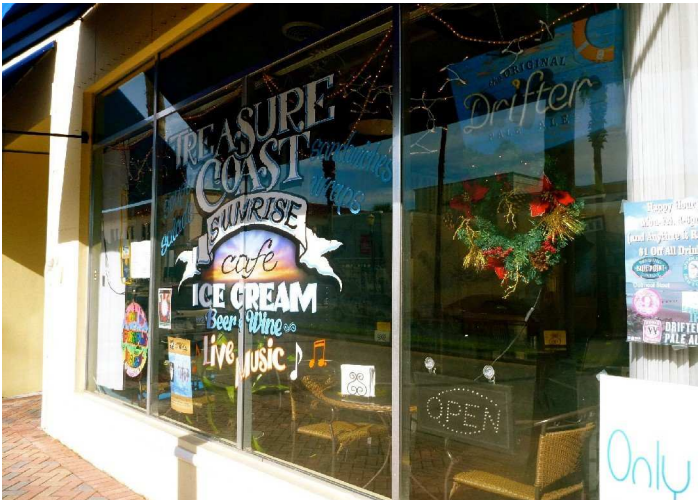
**SPECIALTY BREADS:** Asiago, Briche Loaf, Cheese Bread, Kalamata Oliv & Rosemary, Multi-Grain, Provencal, Pumpernickle Rasin, Rosemary, Cranberry Walnut Bread, Cinnamon Raisin.

I buy a loaf every Saturday. I am slowly working my way through the list above.



Living on a sailboat in the City Marina, Fort Pierce, Florida





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Living on a sailboat in the City Marina, Fort Pierce, Florida



Famous and historic Fort Pierce Sunrise Theatre.



Nice nearby bank.

Living on a sailboat in the City Marina, Fort Pierce, Florida

# Allen's - St. Lucie County's Oldest Dinner

## BREAKFAST ALL DAY

A short bike ride from the marina on Highway US-1 is Allen's Dinner. It was recommended to me by another person living on a boat at a different marina.



Living on a sailboat in the City Marina, Fort Pierce, Florida



Living on a sailboat in the City Marina, Fort Pierce, Florida



## Thrift Shops: Clothes, Food, Personal Items, Etc.

A number of thrift shops are in bicycle distance. For t-shirts, shorts, sweaters, sweat shirts use **GOODWILL**. For a good selection of food at discount prices you can't beat **SAVE-A-LOT**. Both **DOLLAR TREE DEALS** and **DOLLAR STORES** are nearby. Dollar Tree has the best prices.





## **7 Gables House, Chamber of Commerce next to Manatee Center**

Just across Moore's Creek from K-Dock is the 7 Gables House that houses a welcome center, staffed primarily by volunteers. The house itself, which was moved to this site, is historic. This is the place to visit for current information on what is going on in Fort Pierce and St. Lucie County.



## **Manatee Center, across Moore's Creek from K-Dock**

Manatee's are VERY POPULAR, much more than I would have expected. From WINDSONG I can observe people there all the time. They often come across the bridge to the marina side of Moore's Creek, and stand on the dock looking for manatees. There is always big excitement when one is spotted. Inside is a information center and a great gift shop.





Living on a sailboat in the City Marina, Fort Pierce, Florida

## **A.E. Backus Museum and Gallery**

The A. E. Backus Gallery & Museum is located at 500 North Indian River Drive, Fort Pierce, Florida just across from K-Dock. This museum houses artwork by A. E. Backus and other Florida artists. The museum contains the largest collection of paintings by A. E. Backus. From time to time they have an open house ... a good time to go.



Living on a sailboat in the City Marina, Fort Pierce, Florida

## Reading Day and Night

*"Ironically, sometimes librarians don't have a lot of time to read."*

***The Collectors*** by David Baldacci

Reading is a wonderful activity when living on sailboat at the Fort Pierce City Marina, since there is a wonderful public librry just across the street. Like the librarian in Baldacci's novel, when working as a librarian, I had little time for reading. I am now making up for lost time. Capt. Slocum in his classic book, ***Sailing Alone Around the World***, talks about reading day and night. I am following his example.





## Public Library

Just across for the City Marina is a branch of the St. Lucie County Library System. It is a wonderful two story library. One of the librarian's has the same library degree as mine, an A.M.L.S. from the University of Michigan.

To get a library card, you will need proof that you are living in St. Lucie County. I just used the label of a package sent to me through the mail. Besides having an excellent collection, the library has a very good open Wi-Fi system.

Living on a sailboat in the City Marina, Fort Pierce, Florida







## **Christmas Celebrations - Sights & Sound Parade**

I did not know what to expect, but it turned out great, despite a light rain. It was a VERY long parade that included many creative floats. I particularly liked Humane Society that had lots of dogs being led on leashes. Even school board members had a float. Horses were great. All in all it was a good way to get in the Christmas spirit.

## Living on a sailboat in the City Marina, Fort Pierce, Florida





## Christmas Boat Parade

I had never been in a boat parade, but why not do it. I got LED Christmas Lights from the local Ace Hardware and later more from a Dollar Tree Store. It was a great experience, but tricky being among a lot of vessels at night in unfamiliar waters. I would recommend you have a good GPS aboard. As it turned out I won first place for a sailboat. How good is that! The prize was a one hundred gift certificate for the Tiki Bar and an engraved trophy that will be mailed.

**WINDSONG with her  
lights at K-Dock**





## **Super Light Show on Marina Square**

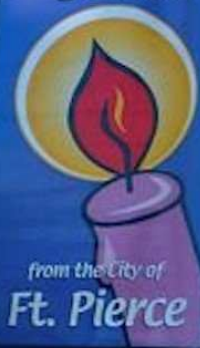
Almost every night I would bike over and look and listen to the Holiday Lights Spectacular. This is all new to me. No palm trees in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. I would bike over almost every night. Most of my enjoyment came from watching people where were there for the first time. Little kids really loved it. Night. Flashing lights. Music. How good can it get?

Living on a sailboat in the City Marina, Fort Pierce, Florida





wishing you the  
*Joy* of the  
Season



from the City of  
**Ft. Pierce**

Seasons  
Greetings



from the City of  
**FT. PIERCE**



# January 1, 2013

## New Year Day's Florida

### Traditional fixins on K-Dock

Boaters living on boats on K-Dock put together a nice tradition Florida dinner for the new year.

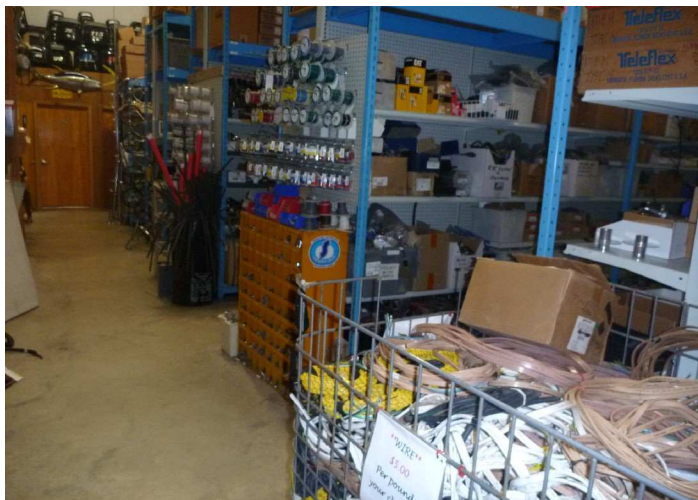
The menu: Hoppin' John (or black-eyed peas and rice)  
Greens (collards) brings prosperity in  
the coming year  
Ham brings good luck  
Cornbread It's not a Southern meal  
without cornbread!  
brings luck and wealth  
and some wine

The meal was enjoyed by all.





## Living on a sailboat in the City Marina, Fort Pierce, Florida





## Surplus Connection

The Surplus Connection is too far to go to on a bicycle. Some friendly person with a car is needed. But it is the "candy" store for boaters.

From a personal point-of-view, I can relate to the whole operation. For years I was involved in obtaining corporate donations of inventory that was then given to nonprofit organizations across the United States.

Anyway, it a must place to visit.

Living on a sailboat in the City Marina, Fort Pierce, Florida



## **Riverside Marine ... Lots of boats plus a travelift.**

This do-it-yourself boat yard is just north of the City Marina. This is where I will haul WINDSONG when I go north the end of March.

It has a LOT of boats on the hard. It's a good bike ride from the marina, but well worth the ride. Lots of interesting boats to look at.



# The Train Mural and the Real Train

Up the hill from the marina is a great mural of the engine of a train next to the tracks for the real train. Every night one can hear the train whistle which is great. I have always liked trains. When I was stationed at Fort Bragg I can clearly remember taking a train to Beloit, Wisconsin.







# **VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK**

**CITY OF FORT PIERCE**



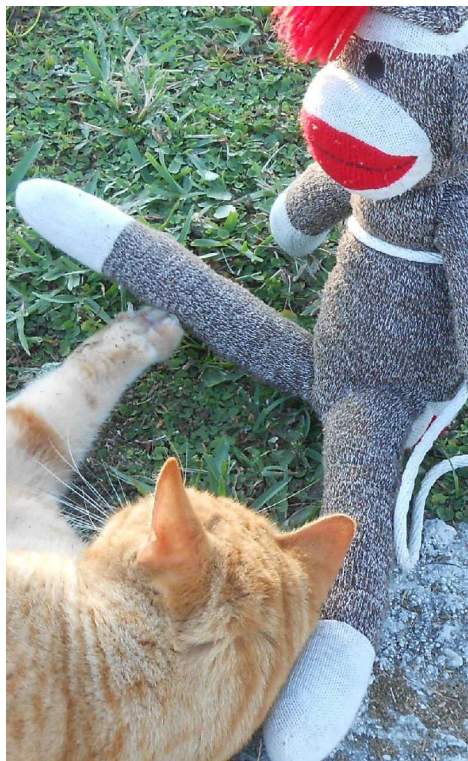
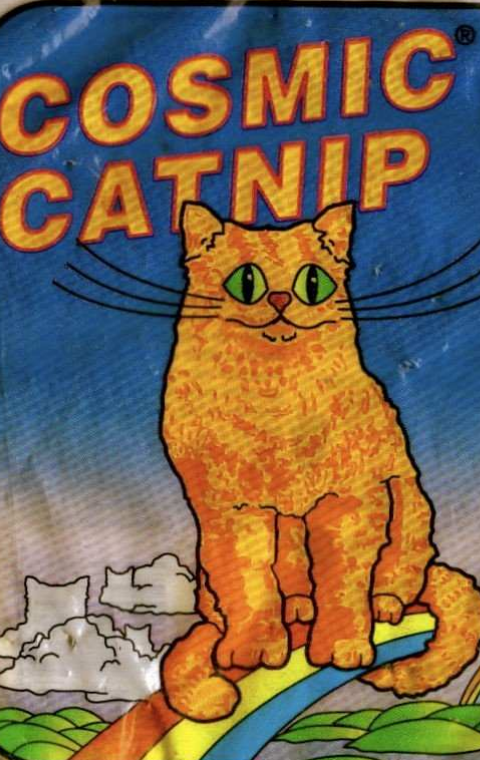


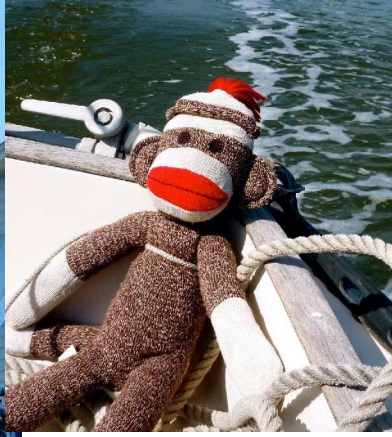




## **Luck Jack on K-Dock**

Lucky lives on a sailboat on K-Dock. He comes running down the dock to visit. Sock Monkey likes him.





## **Sock Monkey Loves the Fort Pierce City Marina**

The Sock Monkey came as first Mate all the way from Lake Superior to Fort Pierce ... and he loves it. In picture at left he helped Mr. Windell lower the mast at the Erie Canal. Below, right be met the store manager and harbor master of the Liberty Landing Marina across from New York City. Sometimes, Capt. Tom takes him around Fort Pierce in a back pack. People alway say, hey ... you've got a monkey on your back! If you Google images "sock monkey fort pierce" you will see more pictures of me.



Sock Monkey coming back from the  
Saturday Market ....





## Epilogue

What have I learned?

1. Living on a sailboat in Florida for few months during the winter is truly a dream of a lifetime.
2. The first time I visited the Fort Pierce City Marina and spoke with the dock master and a few people living on sailboats, I knew that this would be the perfect place to stay. I was right.

3. The location of the marina to the old city of Fort Pierce is a wonderful environment. One feels that like you are in a small city. And of course, there is always something going on. Everything one needs can be reached using bicycle.

4. A "pocket cruiser" that can easily be moved on a conventional trailer, is a good choice for a sailboat to live on for a few months. In the case of WINDSONG, I plan to have a friend bring down my trailer from Michigan. We haul WINDSONG at a nearby marina with a travel-lift, drop the mast, put her on the trailer, and off we go.

Next winter I plan to trailer PENRYN, a Robert Tucker designed bilge keel sailboat, down to the City Marina. It is smaller than WINDSONG, but is a proven sea-worthy craft. The famous solo sailor Tristan Jones sailed a vessel similar to PENRYN all over the world.

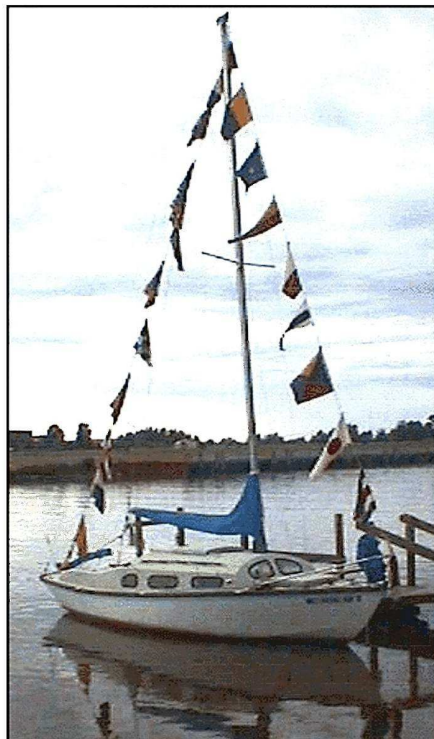
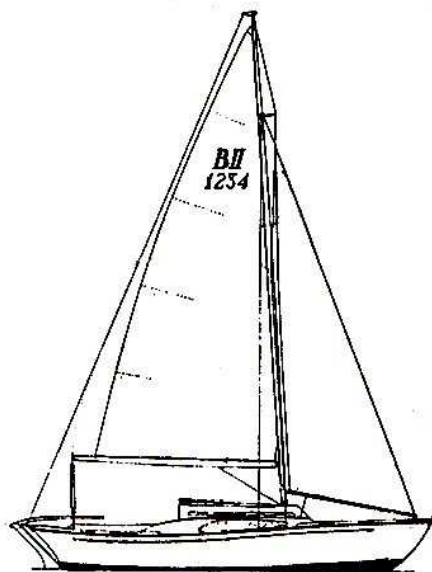
5. Living on a sailboat is very good for your health. I am up at 7 and off on a hour bike ride and watch the sun coming up. (It is afterall, the sunrise city!) Then it's back to the boat for a few oranges and grapefruit. White a nice way to start the day.

It is very difficult to end this booklet. Every day something new happens that is worthy of inclusion. But I guess all good things have to end. For ongoing information on my visit to Fort Pierce, see:

**[www.sailblogs.com/thegreattrip](http://www.sailblogs.com/thegreattrip)**

O'er the glad waters of the dark blue sea,  
Our thoughts as boundless, and our souls as  
free,  
Far as the breeze can bear, the billows foam,  
Survey our empire, and behold our home!

-- lord Byron, from The Corsair



## Next Winter

In *The Incredible Voyage*, the legendary sailor Tristan Jones sailed a small bilge keel sailboat SEADART on the lowest body of water in the world, the Dead Sea in Israel-and the highest, Lake Titicaca in the Andes. During this intrepid six-year voyage, he traveled a distance equal to twice the circumference of the world. His sailboat was designed by the late British designer Robert Tucker.

I own PENRYN a Ballerina design sailboat designed by Robert Tucker. She was built in Cornwall, England. She is similar to the vessel used by Jones.

**Specifics:** **LWL:** 5.10m/16'9" **LOA:** 6.56m/21'6"  
**Beam:** 2.3m/7'5" **Draft:** 0.69m/2'6"  
**Displ.:** 1,017k/2,240 lbs. **Ballast:** 362k/800 lbs.

With some modifications PENRYN would be a perfect boat to live on for a few months in Fort Pierce. She can be easily trailered down to the City Marina.

Due to a draft of less than 3 feet, PENRYN can even sail on the Intracostal, as well as on the Atlantic.

(left left) Ballerina, Hull number 1, is still in service in England. (left right) PENRYN hull number 217, Ontonagon Harbor, Michign.





Historic Gorman House on Lake Superior

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