

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA YACHTS

INC.



FLORIDA SAILING & CRUISING SCHOOL

Experience the Boating Life!

E-YARDARM - SUMMER 2008



SUMMER SPECIAL NEWS FLASH!



Does the economy have you down?
Are gas prices hitting you where it hurts?
Longing for an “away vacation” instead of a “stay vacation?”

There's still time to enjoy a summer or fall cruise in Southwest Florida.
We'll even help buy your provisions!!



Book your charter before September 1, 2008 and you'll receive a gift card for Publix Grocery Store upon your arrival!

Book at a 3-day class or charter rate: \$50 gift card!

Book at a 5-day or longer class or charter rate: \$100 gift card!

(That's in addition to our 25th Anniversary Special offering 2 FREE days with your summer charter of 3 days or more!)

But hurry! This offer is valid only on charters or classes beginning after August 1 and ending before November 1, 2008. You must make your reservation before September 1, 2008!

A gift for you!

*We know that times are tough and every little bit helps.
Let us help you with the cost of provisioning so that you can come
and enjoy a vacation afloat with your family or friends!*



Experience the Boating Life!™



*And don't forget our
25th Anniversary Specials!*

CHARTER SPECIAL

25 Years of Yachting Excellence

1984  2009

It's Our 25th Anniversary, and We have a Present for You!

Announcing Our 3-Year Anniversary Celebration!

January 1, 2008-December 31, 2010*



Our Gift to You:

Winter (12/15-4/30): 1 Free Day with a 3-Day or longer Charter!

Summer (5/1-12/14): 2 Free Days with a 3-Day or longer Charter!

*Charter must begin on or after 1/1/2008 and end on or before 12/31/2010.

SCHOOL SPECIAL

January 1, 2008-December 31, 2010

Our Gift to You:

Sail and Power Students Who Graduate From Our School Between

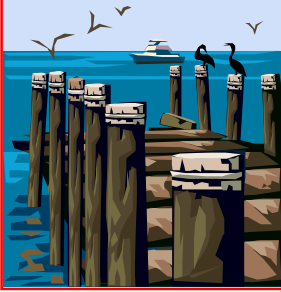
January 1, 2008 and December 31, 2010

Will Receive a Free Nautical Gift by Weems & Plath.*



*Some restrictions apply.

Class must begin on or after 1/1/2008 and end on or before 12/31/2010.



AHOY MATEYS!

***The Marinas & Resorts
of Southwest Florida Are Helping Us
Celebrate With Special Savings for You!***

Now is a great time to cruise with SFY!

The Marinas and resorts of Southwest Florida are celebrating our 25th Anniversary with us by offering you special dockage rates! Ask for details when you book your charter!

Cruise beautiful Southwest Florida aboard your private yacht!

Sanibel Island, Captiva Island, Cabbage Key, Useppa Island, Gasparilla Island and many more tropical destinations await you!

Join us soon!



Cabbage Key



Useppa Island

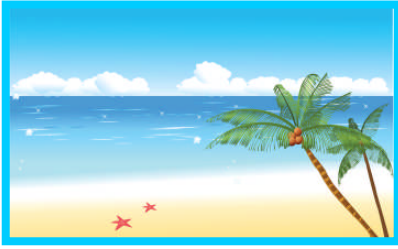


***Celebrate Labor Day
in Beautiful Southwest Florida!***

***Celebrate the last Holiday of this summer on the water!
What better place to be than in beautiful Southwest Florida!***

***Reserve your class or charter dates soon!
And don't forget our Anniversary Special and Grocery Gift Card offer!***

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA PORT 'O CALL: USEPPA ISLAND



Useppa Island Club is a private Island Club located at the northern end of Pine Island Sound. The island is filled with history and charm.

As members of Useppa Island Club, Vic and Barb Hansen invite you to stop in the island for a short visit, dinner or an overnight stay. Island amenities include a modern marina, pool, tennis courts, gourmet restaurant, and historical museum. There is a \$10 Guest Fee.

You must make your reservations through the SFY office. Please give us a call at 656-1339 and we will call Useppa for you. Enjoy your visit to beautiful Useppa Island!



An island paradise!



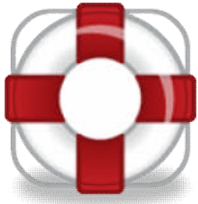
Lush tropical foliage!



Award-winning museum!



Friendly natives!



YACHTS WANTED!

We have a critical need for additional late-model
Sail and Power yachts to join our fleet!

If you currently own a late-model diesel-powered sail or power yacht that you may not have the time to use, or wish to purchase a boat now as your "floating retirement plan", give Barb Hansen a call. We can help you find the boat of your dreams and one that will be a popular charter yacht as well! In addition, your boat would be located in one of the finest year-round cruising areas in the world!

If you would like some income to help offset the cost of boat ownership, or wish to have your investment in a yacht protected by having regular usage and proper maintenance, charter yacht ownership might be just what you are looking for!

For more information on our charter yacht ownership program, please give us call at 800.262.7939 or email us at info@swfyachts.com.

YACHT SALES AND BROKERAGE



Vic Hansen is a licensed Florida Yacht Broker and Barb Hansen is a licensed Florida Yacht Salesperson. Call us to make an appointment to see any of these Lovely yachts or to discuss any other vessels you may have an interest in owning.

<http://www.swfyachtsales.com/>



FOR SALE

1995 ISLAND PACKET CAT, PACKET CAT 35

\$142,000

Just added: New interior cushions; new cockpit cushions and new bimini & dodger!

Twin Yanmar 27 HP diesels, air conditioning, 12 VDC refrigeration, GPS, Autopilot, inverter, anchor windlass and more!



1993 ISLAND GYPSY 32

TWIN ENGINE TRAWLER- \$119,000

All new beautiful salon cushions & curtains!

Twin Volvo 130 HP diesels, Westerbeke 5 kw generator, Air conditioning/heat, refrigerator/ freezer, electric stove, stereo with CD player, Color TV with VCR, and Garmin GPS Map.



1999 LINSSEN 320 DUTCH STURDY STEEL TRAWLER-\$198,000

A small ship that's big on quality and built with fine Dutch craftsmanship!

Single Volvo 88 hp diesel, dockside air conditioning and heat, GPS, Autopilot, Dinghy with motor and much more! Ready to cruise!

2003 MAINSHIP 390 TWIN ENGINE TRAWLER

\$219,900

Twin Yanmar 240 HP diesels, Kohler 8 kw generator, air conditioning and heat, refrigerator, stereo with CD Player, color TV with VCR, autopilot, Radar & GPS!



TWO SFY YACHT OWNERS ON A GREAT LOOP ADVENTURE!

Two of our charter yacht owners have "left the nest" for a cruise around the "Great Loop!" For one couple, Madison and Marlene Groves this voyage is a 7-8 month sabbatical; while for the other, Bob and Kathy Hunt it's a 2-year long sojourn. From time to time we will bring you updates from their adventures afloat!



Aboard "Sootsus at Sea," Bob and Kathy Hunt's Great Loop Adventure: April 4, 2008 - April 20, 2008

On April 4, 2008, the Hunts left the friendly confines of Marinatown and the safety net of Southwest Florida Yachts to begin our "Great Loop Adventure" aboard *Sootsus at Sea*. Our plan was to cruise to Naples for a few nights where we would meet another couple who would accompany us on board as we cruised through the Keys and on to Miami. From Miami, we cruised northward to Daytona Beach where the first leg of our journey would end for a few weeks.

Our plan for completing the Great Loop is to do it in stages, spending about three weeks cruising and then return home to Oklahoma where we will catch up on our other life and rest up for the next leg. At that rate, we think it may take two to three years to complete the loop. This year, we have set a goal to reach the Chesapeake area before winter sets in. We want to take our time, fully enjoying not only the water but the sights and people along the way that are so much an important part of the history of this Nation.

Our first leg found us on a steep learning curve. Even though we had taken Southwest Florida Yachts' Power Boat training on board "Blue Note" and learned a lot more through our association with U.S. Power and Sail Squadron back home, we found ourselves learning new things each day.....even about the nuances of our own boat. Well, that is exactly what we had hoped for...how boring life would be without the excitement of encountering new experiences along the way.

The first leg included tranquil nights at anchor near Everglade City and the Ten Thousand Island area and in Little Shark River portion of The Everglades National Park. It included crossing Florida Bay to Marathon, dodging crab pots by the thousands along the way. Of course we made the requisite trip to Key West and thoroughly enjoyed that unique city. Anchoring out off Islamorada and Tavernier Creek was a real contrast with the experience of staying at Miamarina, one of the marinas run by the City of Miami which is surrounded by shops under the shadows of the Miami skyline. While the city life was nice, we were ready to head north again along the ICW toward our eventual stopping point in Daytona Beach.

Well, our first leg is complete and all of us, including Sootsus at Sea, are still in one piece and still enjoying the cruising adventures. We head home for our break with anticipation of beginning the second leg.

Editor's Note: Pleasant cruising, Bob and Kathy!



In our next issue of the E-Yardarm we will hear from Madison and Marlene Groves about their journey aboard their Grand Banks 42, "Joy @ Sea."



The Groves in Key West and ready to cruise the Hudson River!

From the Mailboat



We had an awesome time on "Sootsus at Sea"! Our family made awesome memories which we captured on movies (now transferred to a DVD) and still pictures.

**-Sharon & Tony from Indiana
Charter aboard the Mainship 43**



Editor's note: Sharon and Tony's grandchildren sent us these excerpts from their cruising journals! *Thanks!*

SOUTH FLORIDA CRUISES

Many people dream of cruising around on a yacht; but for me, this actually happened this year on Spring Break in March. My parents, grandparents, my little brother and I all set off on a week-long cruise around Charlotte Harbour.

The inside of the yacht was really awesome, but the best part was the deck. We could sit and watch the waves for hours. Sometimes, dolphins came to play under the bow of the boat.

Stopping at the different islands was great, and my personal favorite was Captiva Island. The crab races there are extremely funny to watch, and the food at the Crow's Nest is great!

I can see why the islands of South Florida have been called one of the best chartering destinations in the world. This trip was one I will never forget.

Ellie - age 13



"FLORIDA CHARTERING"

I couldn't believe that we were actually doing this! Chartering a yacht through Charlotte Harbour was amazing!

I will never forget cruising on this giant boat or feeling the wind whipping on my face in the Pine Island Sound. We traveled to many islands like Captiva, Useppa, Sanibel and Cabbage Key. We stayed on the Florida mainland two nights, and I swear I won't forget the shore power cords at Burnt Store Marina.

Captiva Island was my favorite place. The little hermit crab races were so cool! The man that ran the races was funny, also!

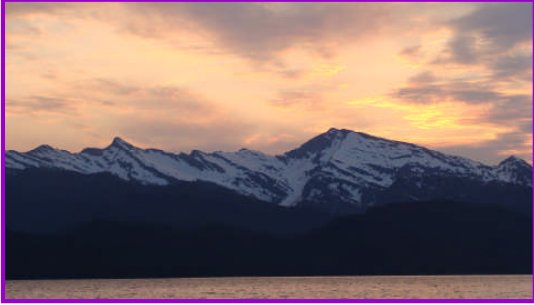
I can't even start about the yacht. It was awesome! Dolphins swam with the boat everyday, and just being in Florida was amazing.

This was a dream come true for me. I love the boat, "Sootsus at Sea". If I ever take my kids on a cruise around Charlotte Harbour and "Sootsus at Sea" is available and still running, I will pick that beautiful yacht.

Noah - age 11

Cruise Away from Concerns

By Barb Hansen



I tell our chartering cruisers to leave laptops and cell phones behind. But last month, when Vic and I and friends left Florida for our Alaskan inside passage cruise, what did I do? Yep. I hauled my laptop, cell phone and concerns along with me.

The bad news was my laptop and cell phone couldn't find a signal most of the time. The good news was my laptop and cell phone couldn't find a signal most of the time.

I have figured out there's a reward to hauling these devices around. They make us feel important. Our inner voices tell us, "The people in the office need me. They really need me." But there is a big downside to it - stress.

But aren't vacations, you know, supposed to be stress relievers?

I was a little antsy at first, not being connected, but I started to accept the situation. So as our 65-foot Malahide trawler ambled comfortably all the long days past the glorious scenery of Southeast Alaska, little by little I focused my attention on the relaxing reality of the here and now, not the unreal worry of what might be happening back at the office.



Even though we're in the yacht chartering business, and even though Southwest Florida is one of the most beautiful cruising areas in the world, I'd forgotten how relaxing it was to just go cruising. Work and other daily concerns just get in the way of taking time to enjoy it. Work, family, pets and house projects seem to take priority over a weekend cruise.

That's why I think vacations, to really work, require us to get out of town and to leave the you-know-whats turned off.



In addition to the majestic mountains and gorgeous glaciers that make up this part of the U.S. coastline, the wildlife was up close and very photogenic. Whales, sea lions, otters, seals, eagles and bears seemed to greet us at each new cove or provide at-anchorage entertainment after dinner.

Ah . . . the blood pressure goes down.

We fished, set out shrimp and crab traps, and dined on our fresh catch nearly every day. While onboard, I read four books about Alaska. I napped and slept like a child.

We have cruised Alaska on board this vessel in the past. It's a classic, comfortable and sturdy 65-footer built of wood with a warm and inviting interior. A full-time captain and chef take care of navigation and nutrition. So very well.

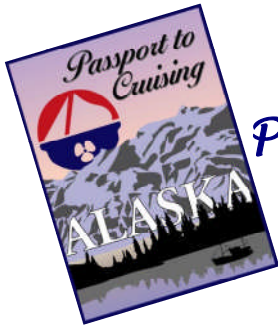
I did have one electronic device onboard, my camera, but it helped my mind stay focused on the present. We covered more than 400 spectacular, panoramic miles at just the right shutter speed. If you want to see some, let me know. I'll email them to you.



We'll be going again next year. If you ever get that feeling that you need to "get away from it all" then you are welcome to join us. But: Turn off the cell phone. Leave the laptop behind.

By the way, those cushioned lounges they put out on the upper deck are wonderful for naps.





Coming soon . . .
Passport to Cruising Alaska in 2009!

Our 2008 Alaska cruise was awesome!

We hope you can join us next summer for another voyage to Southeast Alaska! Watch for dates and details next month!



CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITES!

For complete charter, school, and yacht sales information, try our websites:

www.swfyachts.com * www.flsailandcruiseschool.com * www.swfyachtsales.com

For more information on charters, classes, charter yacht ownership, or brokerage yachts for sale, please call us at 1-800-262-7939 or 239-656-1339. E-mail: info@swfyachts.com

If you are planning a trip to our area we invite you to stop by and see us! We are open 7 days a week!



INC.

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