



The Harbor Report

Newsletter of Florence
Harbor Marina and
Restaurant

N 34 47.204 W 87.40 419

AUGUST 2008

Pura Vida

Pure Life, Good Life

By Margaret Mayer



After six years afloat on our old trawler, Pura Vida, we decided to be land people once again and picked the pretty little town of Florence as the best place to do it. With more than 10,000 miles of waterways behind us, our last leg of the journey from Mobile to Florence took place the third week in June, 2008.

The Tombigbee is a deep river, especially at sharp bends (75 feet in one spot), and it makes a serpentine path through south Alabama's woodlands.

As the first day of summer wore on, the temperature and humidity rose until I began to feel like a steamed clam. At five o'clock Tom turned off into a small tributary to spend the night. When the engine stopped, Pura Vida floated in complete silence. There was no sound and there was also no breeze. It was the kind of day you don't have to move to break a sweat, you only have to breathe. I pulled out an ice pack and rubbed it over my face. About 7:00 dark gray clouds moved in with a flutter of wind and a quick shower to cool us down a little.

The next morning, in the cool air of dawn before the sun reached the treetops, steam rose from the warm river water, creating a calm, ethereal effect. Along the shore mimosa trees, sometimes called silk trees, blossomed, filling the air with a sweet fragrance. It was the best time of day.

In the Demopolis lock, Mother Nature provided us with entertainment as we rose up the wall. Approximately 18 to 20 great egrets had lined up atop the wall, waiting for the incoming water to begin churning and bringing small fish to the surface. When the gate opened and the water roiled, the birds began to spot their prey. They'd swoop down, pluck their prize out of the water, and then gracefully flap their wings to return to the wall with the silver, wiggly tidbits in their beaks. Each fish went down in one gulp. The egrets swooped and plucked, sometimes ten or more at once, the entire time it took us to rise 30 feet to the top of the lock. Those birds knew a good thing when they saw it and they had it down to a science.

The Pickwick Belle

www.pickwickbelle.com • (877)936-BELLE



The Pickwick Belle will be cruising the beautiful Pickwick Lake and the majestic Tennessee River to **Florence Harbor** for Media Day, tentatively planned for September 2nd. The Belle will begin offering a new experience for the entire family, to enjoy a romantic dinner cruise, embrace the majestic scenery, celebrate a wedding, or hold a corporate event. Civil War Themed Cruises, Gospel/Bluegrass/Jazz/Blues Music Cruises, Christian Comedy Cruises, Sightseeing Cruises, Lock Cruises, Holiday Themed Cruises, Family Night Cruises and many more from which to choose! Groups of all sizes are welcome, Motorcoach parking on site, A cruise for every age and every pocketbook! The possibilities are endless and all available here on the South's sparkling gem . . . The Pickwick Belle.

Watch the local paper and Harbor Report as more details become available.



To the SATISFACTION of George Smith and Edward Guillard, Les Fulmer and Teddy Butler towed this 38 ft. trawler from the Sheffield Riverfront Park into Florence Harbor!

***COOLEST TRANSIENT
BOAT OF THE MONTH!***

FOLKS AT THE HARBOR



This my friends is what we have to look at every morning as we drink our coffee overlooking the Tennessee River.
Ron and Carol Beberniss aboard Annie inside Wilson Lock, "A" Dock



Hunter and Will Yarbrough sporting their new Seadoo. Hunter is a pro backing the trailer into the water for his mom, Karen. Will is the newest captain of the family 's day cruiser.

Joey & Karen Yarbrough, "A" Dock



Tim Hill gives the thumbs up for taking his friends out just about every weekend for an evening cruise.
Tim Hill, "A" Dock

Helpful Phone Numbers

Emergency:	911
Marina Office:	256-768-1299
Restaurant:	256-768-1721
Marina After Hours:	256-710-5133
State Troopers Post:	256-383-2923
Florence Police:	256-760-6500
Florence Fire Department:	256-760-6475
Florence Park Police:	256-760-6416
Duke Equipment:	256-766-1020
Shoals Marine:	256-766-7635
Capt. Scuba	256-627-4121
US Coast Guard Auxiliary	303-776-7834 or 303-619-0421

Hours of Operation:

Marina:

Mon—Friday: 8 am—5pm

Sat & Sun: 8 am—6 pm

Restaurant:

Monday: Closed

Tues—Thursday: 4 pm—10 pm

Friday: 4 pm—midnight

Saturday: 11 am—midnight

Sunday: 11 am—10 pm



JUST MAIL YOUR ANSWERS WITH YOUR SLIP RENT, STOP BY THE MARINA OFFICE OR E-MAIL eva@florenceharbor.com FOR A FREE T-SHIRT!

1. What I like best about Florence Harbor Marina and Restaurant?
2. What I like least about Florence Harbor Marina and Restaurant?
3. What I look forward to at the Harbor or like to see happen at the Harbor?

WELCOME NEW SLIP HOLDERS

James and Beverly Marshall
"D" DOCK



Happy Boating!