



The Harbor Report

Newsletter of Florence
Harbor Marina and
Restaurant

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SEPTEMBER 2008

Cruising Blogs from Transient Boaters Visiting Florence Harbor



We are long time boaters currently aboard a 34' Mainship Pilot. One of our favorite stops is Florence Harbor: many amenities, proximity to downtown, and a bonus—a great spot from which to call Wilson Lock and then wait, often necessary at this busy lock. Even with a wait, we enjoy locking. Long ago we learned that whatever the lockmaster says—Do it! The lockmaster is a benevolent god—looming above, in control of our very lives, a voice that proclaims, “Tell your deckhand to wear a lifejacket” or “Go all the way down on your starboard side.” Or the lockmaster is a mother hen, like

the day we locked through Chickamauga with eight boats including several novices. The lockmaster leaned over the wall coaxing each boat in, clucking encouragement until he had us all safely nestled under his wing. Most boaters know the protocol for calling locks but then there was the day we heard a woman’s voice: “Mr. Dam Man, Mr. Dam Man, will you let me through your dam?” Once inside, we are watchful as we have experienced floating bollards that don’t. Then we quickly untied and idled in the middle until the lock emptied. The tale goes of another more casual boat crew. Before they knew it, the water was dropping away, soon to leave them hanging by a thread on the lock wall. “Reverse the water! Reverse the water!” they screamed before a cooler head cut the line. Each time the gates open the scene changes. Pastures below the lock, cliffs above. Sunny on one side, pea soup fog on the other. The doors swing to a new world or, old world as happened the day a Mississippi River lock swung wide to reveal the exact replica of Christopher Columbus’ Nina, waiting to lock up. Our best lock discovery was in the Erie Canal when we met two boats from Texas and found traveling companions through southern Canada and friends ever since. Always adventures!

Joanne & Bill Walker, aboard Annuity.



Colonel's Lady, crewed by **Ron and Molly Bodeen from San Diego**, spent Labor Day weekend with us. They are traveling from Columbus MS to explore the TN River this summer. They completed the Great Loop Last year and went through this area a year ago on their way to closing the loop at Columbus, MS.

Ron, in his mid-70s, and Molly (close behind Ron) were avid west coast sailors during their 40s to 60s, racing to Hawaii in the Ancient Mariners Trans Pac and spending a year in Mexico on their sailboat. They gave up boating (they thought) and started RVing in '98. It was during their RV travels, following the Lewis and Clark expedition, that they realized they needed to get back on the water, so three years ago and two weeks before Katrina, that they bought their trawler in Biloxi. They learned real fast about hurricane holes.

Having sailed on the west coast they were completely naive about tides over 3', skinny water, and river currents. They currently are looking for a new owner for their Looper Boat, and if no buyer can be found they plan on continuing their explorations of the nation's rivers. On their list are the Cumberland, Ohio, Arkansas, and the Missouri Rivers, that is if their septuagenarian status allows them to continue boating.

They were most surprised at all of the things available to see and do in Florence and amazed at the professional level of entertainment at the Friday night karaoke singing. Planning to spend one night here, they opted to instead spend the entire weekend with us.

Welcome aboard Ron and Molly

Percy Sledge's daughter, Deborah
Singing Karaoke at the Harbor Restaurant



Captain Shane, of the Pickwick Belle, and Bobbi on the first cruise from the Harbor.

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

WELCOME NEW SLIP HOLDERS

"C" Dock

Len White

Jason Johnson

Gina Myrick



IMPORTANT: PROOF OF HULL COVERAGE AND LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR YOUR VESSEL **MUST BE ON FILE** IN THE MARINA OFFICE. A COPY OF YOUR CURRENT POLICY SHOULD BE MAILED OR DROPPED OFF WITH YOUR PAYMENT.

Call or Check out the Pickwick Belle Website for upcoming cruises! They're back in October!!

The Pickwick Belle

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



**COOLEST TRANSIENT
BOAT OF THE MONTH!**



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



Happy Boating!