



The Harbor Report

Newsletter of Florence Harbor Marina and Restaurant

N 34 47.204 W 87.40

March 2008

IN SEARCH OF WARM WEATHER



While traveling the Great Loop on a 50 foot Catamaran, Skip Binkley and his family visited over 100 marinas. After being “Fully Looped”, as Skip says, Florence, AL is their new home for the Winter. They chose Florence primarily because of the weather and the friendly people. As a native Alaskan, Skip still calls Fairbanks home in the summer where he owns and operates Riverboat Discovery which offers paddleboat cruises into the heart of Alaska. Check out their website and ‘Winter at 40 Below’ link. During the winter, Skip actually drives to work by car ON the river, which is a 4 foot thick sheet of ice. <http://www.riverboatdiscovery.com>

Florence Harbor is home to Skip’s newest vessel, “Easy Water”. He finds the Tennessee River beautiful and unique. He chose the harbor because it is located near the intersection of the Tenn-Tom which will put him in Mobile and the Gulf within two days. He also has the option of traveling East on the Tennessee River deeper into the mountains of Tennessee or within a week traveling North to the Ohio, then Illinois River and into Lake Michigan in Chicago. The harbor welcomes Skip and his family to Florence and we look forward to hearing more of his boating stories.

WELCOME NEW SLIP HOLDERS

“A” DOCK

Mike Wharton

“B” DOCK

Jack Bomar



Helpful Phone Numbers

Marina Office:	256-768-1299
Restaurant:	Closed for Winter
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
Emergency:	911



Happy Boating!

ALABAMA MARINE POLICE

MARINE SANITATION DEVICE INSPECTION

APRIL 19TH

The Alabama Marine Police will be conducting Marine Sanitation Device Inspections at Florence Harbor Marina on April 19th, 2008. All vessels registered in the State of Alabama having an installed toilet facilities will be required to be inspected each calendar year. Vessels not displaying a current year inspection sticker will be issued a citation. Officers will be conducting inspections and issuing decals from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm, or longer if needed on April 19th, 2008. Please contact the Marina Office to schedule another time for an inspection if you are unable to have your vessel inspected on this date.



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Happenings

The marina would like to ask that when you have sold your boat to not assume your slip goes with the sale. Please contact the marina office before you assume your slip goes with the sale.

As the weather warms up, many old faces are leaving their fireplaces and blankets to venture back out into the sunshine. We **welcome** all the old faces back and look forward for you to meet the new slip holders.

Pontoon Boats are in the water and ready to rent. One was even rented in January! Transient boaters from Lower Pickwick to Michigan continue to dock at the harbor. Fuel is even being sold.

If you forget
your sunglasses
or sunscreen,
just stop by the
Marina Store!



Restaurant News:

We have had numerous calls and questions regarding when the restaurant will open for the season. We have talked with different interested parties in regards to leasing the restaurant. We fill comfortable in announcing the restaurant will open mid-April or the first of May. Once final arrangements have been made, we look forward to serving you on the balcony or in the dining room.

Private parties are already being booked.

Voyages of Annie, The Great American Whistle Hunt

December 6, 2007 by [whistledoc](#)

Annie is currently in Florence Alabama. Came through the locks at Wheeler Dam and Wilson Dam yesterday morning. These are the locks that have the 85 foot drop.... pretty wild. Going down in a lock is somewhat like putting a ping-pong ball in the commode and then flushing it....and Annie and I are the ping-pong ball. Yesterday was a little chilly. Got down into the 20's night before last and when I went to get the lines ready for locking through, the lines were frozen stiff. Had to throw them in the shower to warm them up a bit. When I went on deck there was a thin layer of ice all over the decks which added to the interest of the fiasco of locking Annie through the dam by myself.

I had passed Florence, Alabama on my way upstream but did not stop for several reasons. Florence used to be a big cotton center along with Decatur, Alabama which is about 30 miles or so upstream. This time I decided to stop and check out Florence. Put my bicycle ashore and rode around town. I was not aware that Florence is built on a hill which at the time seemed more like a mountain. When I finished riding around Florence I got back to the boat and almost left the dock to head down stream but it was getting late in the day. After consulting a charts I decided it would be better to leave with lots of daylight. There is marked channel downstream lined with buoys on both sides and they are hard to see at night even with the searchlight. My radar is high on top of the pilot house so when you get close to them I lose them on radar.

rb aboard Annie...Florence Alabama

