Living Aboard A Trawler

- Agenda
  - Our Story
  - Selecting the right boat
  - The Pro’s & Con’s
  - Finding the ideal marina
  - Real Time Costs
  - Comparisons
  - Summary

Life is short, live your dream
Our Story

• An opportunity turns a retirement dream into reality
  – Timing / Job transfer / Location
  – Convincing the first mate!
    • Win / Win
    – Getting it right the second time around
      • N4050 / N4061

• Is this right for you?
Selecting The Right Boat

• **Boat Type / Design**
  - No secret that full displacement trawlers provide more volume / space due to the nature of their design
  - Nordhavn, Selene, Kadey-Krogen to name a few offer their own unique styles

• **Is there a perfect Live A-board boat?**

Perfection is subjective
Selecting The Right Boat

• What’s required for true live aboard comfort?
  – A lot like a house or apartment (but the view is better)
    • Square footage
    • Number of rooms
    • Gourmet Galley
    • Heat / Air-conditioning
    • Outdoor areas

Lots of room for a 40 footer
Selecting The Right Boat

**Living Space**

- No argument that living on a boat will require adjustment to smaller spaces
- Key factors
  - Identify areas you plan to use most often and make them the largest
  - Different levels provide additional privacy
  - Trade offs between indoor and outdoor spaces
Selecting The Right Boat

• Prioritize Living Areas
  – Salon
  – Galley
  – OSR
  – Bathroom
  – Pilothouse
  – Aft / Upper Decks
  – Engine Room (?)

What does your life style require?
Selecting The Right Boat

- Salon
  - Greatest percentage of time spent
    - Equal level galley adds to living area
    - Entertainment center
      - Satellite connected LCD TV’s with Surround Sound
  - Comfortable seating
    - Built-in versus adjustable
  - Hi-Low table
  - Ottomans with storage
  - Large “tinted” windows
  - Carpet over wood
    - Floors get cold

Comfort has been achieved!
Selecting The Right Boat

- **Galley**
  - For some reason meals just taste better on the water
    - Reliable brand appliances
    - Double SS sink
    - Gas or electric stove / oven
    - Refrigerator & Freezer large enough for a weeks provisions
    - Lots of storage space
  - **Luxuries**
    - Trash compactor
    - Wine cooler
    - Granite counter tops

Gourmet dinners sound good
Selecting The Right Boat

- Owners Stateroom
  - Comfort is key
    - Walk around queen size bed
      w/ excellent mattress
    - Hanging locker space
      - Never too much
    - Below bed storage space
    - TV / Stereo
    - Lighting
      - Window size / location
      - Reading lights versus dimmer
        control overhead

Three layers of foam work great
Selecting The Right Boat

• Bathroom
  – Don’t overlook it
    • How large / how many
    • Shower or bath
    • Hot water heater size
    • Fresh or saltwater heads
      – Manual or electric
    • Windows
      – Quantity, location and size
    • Electrical power for hair dryer
    • Heated room

Hot Showers are a must
Selecting The Right Boat

• Pilothouse
  – Room with a view
    • Command central at sea
    • Never to large
    • Excellent for dockside dinners overlooking the city or just watching the world pass by
    • Day berth provides additional sleeping accommodations for occasional guests or afternoon nap

Relax & watch the world go by
Selecting The Right Boat

• Upper / Aft Decks
  – When summer arrives!
    • Entertaining or dinning “Alfresco”
      – Large area required for fold away tables & Chairs
    • Bar-B-Q
      – Rail mounted / small propane
  • Fishing
    – Rod holders / bait tank?
  • Showering off after a swim
    – Built in hot/cold shower
  • Protection from the sun
    – Biminis tops
    – Tall solid railings a must
    – Davit and room for the dingy

Where are the margaritas?
Selecting The Right Boat

- Engine Room
  - It’s not all sunsets & margaritas!
  - Easy Access makes for frequent checks
  - Headroom and elbowroom matters
  - White floors and plenty of lighting
  - Keep it clean!

You will spend time in here.
Selecting The Right Boat

• Summary
  – Your individual style will dictate what is important to you
  – Select the boat that best fits your style (it may not be a trawler)
The Pro’s and Con’s

• Pro’s
  – Lifestyle
    • Waking up on a boat
    • Morning coffee on deck
    • Afternoon walks along the bay
    • Evening glass of wine on deck
    • Gourmet dinners up in the Pilothouse
    • Million dollar views of the city skyline
    • Increased physical activity
    • Neighbors with similar interests
    • Marina amenities & sponsored gatherings
  – Ability to untie the dock lines at a moments notice for a cruise
  – Ability to pick up and move to a different marina or city

• Con’s
  – Smaller living areas
  – Winter weather
  – Never ending maintenance / cleaning
  – Depreciating asset / Cost of Ownership
Selecting The Right Marina

• Location, Location, Location
  - Where you select to live can make or break the experience
  - Walking distance or short drive to stores, restaurants and activities
  - Marina cleanliness, amenities, security
  - Single or double slips
  - Shore power hook-ups
  - Deep channel entrance
  - Close proximity to ocean

You can always pick-up & move
# Real Time Monthly Cost Comparison

**$600K Boat**
- Slip Fees $800*
- Hull Cleaning $90
- 2X/mo wash $120
- Insurance $200
- Misc $200
- Property tax $500
- Total $1,910

*Note Electrical included in slip fee

**$600 House**
- Utilities $800
- Yard Service $220
- Pool Service $120
- Insurance $180
- Misc $500
- TV / Computer $150
- Property Tax $550
- Total $2,520

(Boat and home mortgage, food and transportation not included)

Assumes newer boat with minimum repair work)
Monthly Cost Variables

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  - Hull Cleaning $90
  - 2X/mo wash $120
  - Insurance $200
  - Misc $200
  - Property tax $500
  - Total $1,910

*Note Electrical included in slip fee

Single largest controllable variable (20%) influenced by location

How much can you do yourself?

Not much room here

You will spend this!

Talk to your tax accountant

(Increasing or decreasing the size / cost of the boat will effect most the above items and overall cost of ownership)
Poor economic times – Opportunity or Obstacle

- Why today makes sense to move aboard
  - Lower cost of living
  - Healthy life style
  - Some trawlers holding their value better than some real estate or financial markets
  - Some excellent deals to be found

3/24/09
Summary

The Decision

- No one can or should make the decision for you
  - Have the first mate on board
- It should be more a passion not an experiment
- Start out slow
  - Smaller boat for weekends & weekly stays
  - Borrow a friend’s trawler for a weekend
  - Consider renting out your house for the first year before selling
- Don’t wait as there will never be the perfect time

Your life, your boat!
Parting Thoughts

• Mark Twain:
  • Twenty years from now you will more likely be disappointed for things you didn’t do then those you did

• John Torelli:
  • Life is an ever changing balancing act that doesn’t give a second back. Don’t waste another, take the first step to live your dreams

Live with the dolphins