

Episode 5 –Vero Beach Marina to Ft Pierce



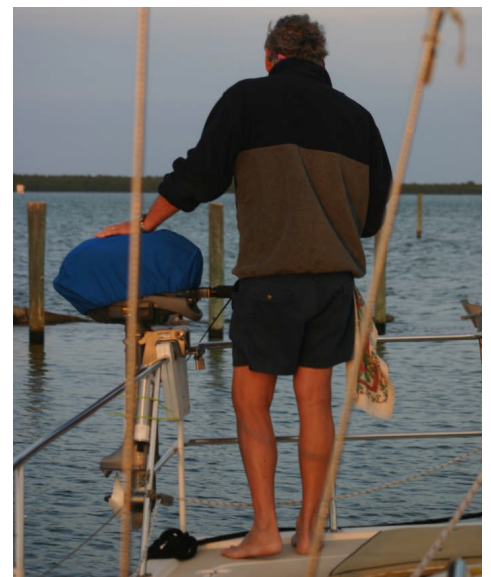
Starting March 23 (Vero Beach)(Ft. Pierce)

Every day, Doug arises first and prepares my coffee (never before 8:00) for me. After he has prepared me a yummy breakfast, we begin our day with “Jesus Calling” and our scriptures for the day. Each day, we pick two people (besides ourselves) to focus on in prayer. I am maintaining a prayer calendar of those we have lifted in prayer. For our Sunday “sermon” we continued with me reading aloud the next chapter of “If You Want to Walk on Water, You Have to Get Out of the Boat” by John Ortberg.

We enjoyed another hot shower while we could get it, filled up with water and diesel pumped the waste tanks and hit the waterway.

We traveled only a short way to Ft. Pierce and anchored between the bridge and Harbortown Marina. We had a relaxing Sunday afternoon “on the hook.” Doug did a little fishing, but he didn’t keep anything for us to eat.

Having left the “Space Coast” and entered the “Treasure Coast” we can really enjoy seeing how the upper crust lives. We see amazing houses as we travel down the waterway. It was also amazing when we pulled into Harbortown Marina on Monday. When we were on Lake Lanier, we had one of the larger boats, but now, some of the boats here would consider us a dinghy. I heard some people walking down the dock, regarding our boat and saying, “It’s little, but cute.”



Being at the marina has given us the opportunity for house cleaning. Doug spent a long time scrubbing the cockpit. It had not had a thorough cleaning since the road paving. He and the manatees cleaned the decks but not the cockpit. I spent the time vacuuming (thanks ,Mother Mussey for the vacuum) the living areas and scrubbing the

galley floor (kitchen) and the head floors (bathrooms). All those jobs go on, even on a boat. I defrosted the frig while we were in Titusville, so that job can wait awhile.

Well, weather changed our plans again. We had planned to be here (Ft Pierce) a couple of days, but it has already been six and we are still waiting for a clear window. Maybe, next week.

Since I can't tell you about travels, I will tell you more about life on a boat. When we are out at anchor or on a mooring ball, we use battery power, so we are conservative with electricity. We have a two burner gas stove with an oven that we can use to cook. We also have a generator. In the mornings, we will start the generator while we make coffee and breakfast. After about an hour, it will have the batteries recharged from the overnight drain and we can comfortably use what we need. Our cost to run the generator for that hour is roughly \$2.00.

When we are in a marina, we feel free to use all our conveniences. We have a Keurig for coffee, tea, chai, or chocolate. It conserves our water to only make what we need. We have a SodaStream so that we can have soda without bottles or cans taking up the limited space, and uses no electricity. Our smoothie maker also doubles as an iced drink maker. We have a Magic Bullet to make our breakfast drinks. We cook mostly with electricity when we are using shore power and save our gas for when we are out. We have a two burner hot plate, a Cuisinart Griddler, and a Ninja cooking system that bakes as well as being a slow cooker. All this to say that Doug is still able to create his wonderful culinary delights. He has come up with some great new recipes that I tell him he will have to remember when we transfer back to shore life.

The only challenge in the galley is the refrigerator. It is a big box (36H, 38W, 24D) that you access from the top, with a freezing unit in the upper left corner. I wind up having to take out lots of "stuff" to get to what I need, because everything is piled on top of everything else. Very often, what I want is all the way in the bottom, so I am almost standing on my head to reach it. We usually turn it off at night, as well as the hot water heater, when we are away from the dock, to minimize the electricity use. Then we turn them back on when the generator or engines are running. That has worked well so far.

When we first came to the marina, we were out near the channel entrance. Doug saw three manatees while he was fishing. We saw lots of pelicans. It was fun to watch them chasing fish. They're really noisy flapping their wings on the water right by the boat. Since we needed to stay longer we have moved into a slip closer in and once again I hear the shrimp cleaning the bottom for us.

Being at dock also allows Doug to participate in March Madness. There is a big screen TV in the dock lounge where he can enjoy the games.

We have come to understand the value of shelter. When we were out on the hook or ball, we were tossed about by the wind. When we were on the end dock, we were much better off, but still bumped around some. Now that we are in a slip, tied down on all sides, we have a much more comfortable time. So it is with being in the shelter of God's arms. We can find peace and rest while he holds us steady in the storms of life.

To follow our adventures, please go to www.Windsongsail.com, click on "Our Stories" and select our names from the list of "Cruisers".

Love to all,

Capt. Doug and First Mate Joyce