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Live de life! Drink de beer!

- Foxy Callwood

Boats, Beaches & Bars

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BOATS

S/S Norway

The Grand Dame of the Caribbean



She was not new, but she had the elegance and grace of the classic era of cruising from which she hails. Originally the transatlantic liner the S/S France, she was re-christened the S/S Norway when purchased from the French by [Norwegian Cruise Line](#), and she sailed the Caribbean until about 1999. At 1,035 feet in length--the longest of her two other contemporaries, the Queen Mary and the Queen Elizabeth II--she could cruise at 25 knots while accommodating 2,032 passengers and a crew of 1000.

With her classic lines, her large public rooms, and her colorful history, she remains my favorite cruise ship. Her lower priced cabins were not as ornate or spacious as those found on the newer ships, but some concessions had to be made to sail a legend. The cruise, airfare, taxes, and port charges for a seven-day cruise could be arranged for less than \$1,000 per person. Unfortunately, the cost of repairing and maintaining an older ship and the new safety requirements put in place made it unfeasible for the cruise line to continue sailing her. There was a movement among former passengers to convert her into a hotel. But last I heard, she was being towed to somewhere in Indonesia to be cut up for scrap. Not a fitting end to such a glorious lady.

Precision 21 & Precision 18



The [Precision 21](#) is manufactured by [Precision Boat Works](#). It was designed by Jim Taylor Yacht Designs to fit in between the smaller [Precision 18](#) (the simplest and most affordable trailerable yacht) and the slightly larger Precision 23 (one of the biggest cruisers that can be practically trailered). The Precision 21 is 20 feet, 9 inches in length, and she has a beam of 8 feet, 3 inches. Her displacement is 1,875 pounds with ballast of 600 pounds. The boat and trailer can be purchased for \$18,880.

The Precision 21 is the second Precision sailboat I have owned. My first was a Precision 18 (*Kalapana*), but I desired more interior room for overnight cruising. I also desired a water system and a stove. The Precision 21 nicely accommodates those desires. She is an attractive boat with good sailing performance. Appropriately, my Precision 21 bears the name *Banana Republican*.

A few years after purchasing *Banana Republican*, I found that I missed being able to easily transport a boat to new and distant sailing areas like Chesapeake Bay and Lake Erie. Therefore, I purchased another Precision 18 that I christened *Banana Wind*. With my fleet of "banana boats," I was able to maintain comfort while relaxing in the Davis Hollow Marina or sailing on the home waters of Lake Arthur, and I was also able to venture out and discover new sailing areas and sailing experiences. As my flexibility decreased due to two hip replacements, I had to let the smaller *Banana Wind* go--too difficult to spend several days in a small cabin when you can't bend and twist like before. However, the *Banana Republican* still provides me plenty of room and plenty of sailing pleasure.



Precision 21
This 21-footer is the third trailersailer that Jim Taylor has drawn for Florida-based Precision Boat Works; there are also 18- and 23-footers. It has berths for four, a built-in galley, and an optional head forward. A lightweight fiberglass kick-up centerboard, a 7-foot cockpit, molded storage lockers, and a large day storage area aft are a few of the many touches that help increase the cruising and daysailing pleasure of this well-performing design. **LOA 20'9", beam 8'3", sail area 203 sq ft, boat weight 1,875 lbs, base price \$18,695. Precision Boat Works, tel. 941-722-6601, www.precisionboatworks.com**

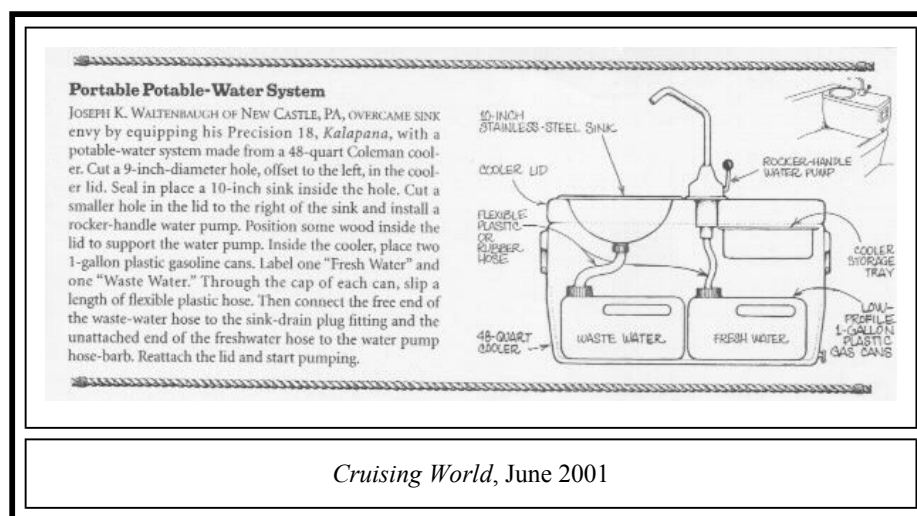
Banana Republican featured in *Sail Magazine*, August 2004

Seaward 25



If I were to make the jump to the next sized boat, it would probably be the Seaward 25 manufactured by [Hake Yachts](#). The Seaward 25 is a 25-footer with the comfort and feel of a much larger boat. She has a straightforward, uncluttered cabin with a galley, private head, and ample stowage for coastal cruising. She also has the options of wheel steering, inboard diesel, marine head with holding tank, hot and cold pressured water, shower, and electric refrigeration.

The Seaward 25 has an overall length of 26 feet, 9 inches with an 8 foot, 4 inch beam and a 25 inch draft. With a displacement of 3,600 pounds, she is still trailerable. Her base sail-away price was about \$34,000. Unfortunately, [Hake Yachts](#) no longer makes the Seward 25, so I'd have to find a used one if I decide to go that route in the future. They've replaced the Seward 25 with the new [Seaward 26RK](#). It is similar to the Seward 25, but it is slightly longer with a retractable keel.



Oceanis 311



The [Oceanis 311](#) built by [Beneteau](#) is a boat I could see myself living on and calling home (someday). With headroom of 6 feet, 1 inch in the main salon, she has all the amenities of a large coastal cruiser—with an affordable price tag of \$69,600. She is small enough to be sailed single-handed (if you know what you're doing), and big enough to live on. She has an added option of a retractable keel with double rudders so she can sit upright on a stable tripod in areas that dry out at low tide.

The Oceanis 311 is a 2 cabin, 1 head yacht with an overall length of 32 feet, 3 inches, and a beam of 10 feet, 6 inches. Her draft is 4 feet, 8 inches, and her displacement is 7,716 pounds. At that size, she is not trailerable.

Catalina 310



Although I had previously considered the Beneteau 311 as my potential "retirement" boat, I was captivated by the Catalina 310 this year at the Annapolis Boat Show. Although very similar to the Beneteau (except a little more expensive), the interior was much more comfortable, especially the bed in the V-berth cabin. Maybe I'm getting old, but the comfort factor is much more appealing to me now. But then again, who knows what I'll see at next year's boat show.

The Catalina 310 is manufactured by [Catalina Yachts](http://www.catalinayachts.com) of Woodland, California.

Horizon Yacht Charters



If you are interested in chartering a boat rather than purchasing one, see Silvia Driver and Andrew Thompson at [Horizon Yacht Charters](http://www.horizonyachtcharters.com) in the British Virgin Islands. They have 20 years of sailing and chartering experience between them, and they offer a select quality fleet of yachts for charter (and purchase). Horizon Yacht Charters is based in the Nanny Cay Resort and Marina on the island of Tortola. The resort offers a pool, two restaurants, tennis courts, beach with snorkeling reef, water sports, bike shop, boutiques, and a provisioning store. Sylvia and Andrew can be reached toll-free at 877-494-8787 or email at info@horizonyachtcharters.com. They have opened another charter service on Grenada in the Grenadines, and they are soon to open charter bases in Antigua and Barbuda. Horizon Yacht Charters is an

official dealer for Bavaria Yachts.



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BEACHES

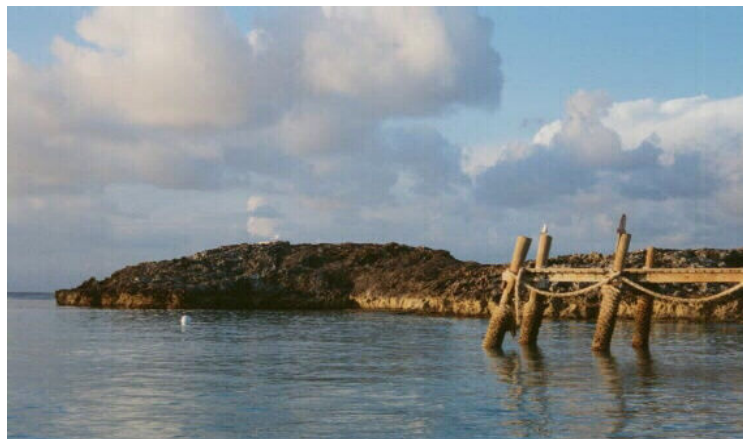
Sandy Spit



It is small, nothing more than a spit of sand with palm trees, and it is located off Sandy Cay at 18 degrees, 26 minutes north latitude and 64 degrees, 42.5 minutes west longitude between the islands of Jost Van Dyke and Tortola in the British Virgin Islands. You can walk the entire perimeter of the island in two minutes. It is, by all comparison, paradise. It is also a great place to have a picnic lunch, catch some rays, and kick back a few cold ones. But be aware that there is nothing there but sand and palm trees, so pack a lunch and BYOB.

[Sandy Spit](#) must be approached by boat—I know of no other way to get there. There are no docks, so you must anchor out and swim or dinghy ashore. A reef surrounding the island starts almost at the water's edge, so swimming is the preferable method to get to shore. If you dinghy in, keep careful watch so as to protect the bottom of the dinghy near the shoreline.

Great Stirrup Cay



It is not as tiny as Sandy Spit, but [Great Stirrup Cay](#) is another small gem in the Caribbean. It is a narrow island only about a mile long located in the Bahamas at 25 degrees, 50.451 minutes north latitude, 77 degrees, 55.078 minutes west longitude.

Great Stirrup Cay is the private island of [Norwegian Cruise Line](#), which leases the island from the Bahamian Government. Because the cruise line does not lease the entire island, boaters often anchor off the public side of the island near the lighthouse. The only thing separating the two sides is a sign.

The developed side of the island—the side leased by Norwegian Cruise Line—has a nice beach with a

horseshoe reef enclosing it that allows for some fairly good snorkeling. There is usually a cruise ship visiting every day with the passengers engaged in a beach party that includes food, live music, and sporting activities. Right next to the island—a short swim away—is its sister island, Little Stirrup Cay, which is the private island of Royal Caribbean Cruise Line.

Roanoke Sound and Holiday Isle



Photo by Phil Barilla

Roanoke Sound along the Outer Banks of North Carolina just off Nags Head doesn't sport much of a beach, but it provides an excellent environment for windsurfing. The shallow waters of the sound combine with the strong consistent winds of the region to produce an ideal setting for honing your windsurfing skills. Oysters along the bottom often pose a hazard to exposed feet, so footwear is advisable to avoid lacerations.

At the [Holiday Isle Beach Resort and Marina](#) on Islamorada in the Florida Keys (84001 Overseas Highway, Islamorada, FL 33036, phone 305-664-2321) there is a road that runs through the resort and ends at the water's edge beside Rumrunners Bar. This spot provides another excellent windsurfing location. Like Pamlico Sound off Nags Head, very shallow waters, warm weather, and strong breezes produce an ideal windsurfing location—and Rumrunners is nearby to help relieve the stress after a hard day of windsurfing.

Seven Mile Beach



It's not exactly seven miles, but no one on Grand Cayman Island really cares. If you visit [Seven Mile Beach](#) in the Netherland Antilles, you won't care either. The turquoise waters, the pure white sand, and the many hammocks slung between the palm trees will distract you long before you succeed in measuring the exact length of the beach.

Anegada



[Anegada](#) is the most northern island in the British Virgin Island chain. Known as the *Drowned Island*, it is a flat island located at 18 degrees, 42.55 minutes north latitude, 64 degrees, 23.95 west longitude. Its entire perimeter consists of pristine beaches, especially in the area of Loblolly Bay. Because of the reef that surrounds the island and extends almost to the island of Tortola, the area is littered with shipwrecks from which the former pirate inhabitants used to derive their living. Now only lobsters, cows, goats, flamingos, and a few natives inhabit the island.

Trunk Bay



Crossing the island of St. John in the U.S. Virgin Islands, you come to a curve in the road at a precipice from where you can look down and behold the splendor of [Trunk Bay](#). It is from that vantage point that Hollywood set up its cameras a few years back to film a movie about Christopher Columbus. (It was the Columbus movie in which Tom Selleck appeared in a supporting role.) The scene from the movie is the same as the one pictured above except that the Nina, Pinta, and Santa Maria are anchored in the bay.

Even without Columbus' ships anchored offshore, Truck Bay is still a beautiful spot to visit. With an underwater national park a short distance offshore, it makes for excellent snorkeling as well as swimming or just lounging on the beach.

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Photo by Chuck Byrne

BARS

The Sandbox Beach Bar

On the small island of Prickly Pear across Gorda Sound near Vixen Point just north of Virgin Gorda in the British Virgin Islands chain, there is a bar known as the [Sandbox Beach Bar](#) (pictured above). During the off-season that begins right after Easter and runs until the end of hurricane season, the place is pretty sedate. But in the high sailing season, it can come to life with live music, liquor, and boisterous crowds of locals and tourists alike. I attended one of the wildest beach parties in my life at the Sandbox.

Upon approaching Virgin Gorda from the sea, Columbus mused that the island looked like a fat virgin lying on her side. Sitting in the Sandbox and looking across North Sound at Virgin Gorda, you can easily share Columbus' vision. If you can't, keep drinking—you will.

Hurricane Lounge and Seafood Restaurant



One time when I was at the [Hurricane Lounge](#) in Pass-a-Grille, Florida, a waterspout formed in the parking lot and proceeded to move out to sea. It was an amazing sight. The time I was there a few years prior to that, the restaurant was sponsoring its Annual Bed Race through the street of Pass-a-Grille, an equally amazing sight. But despite the bed races and waterspouts, what kept me returning to the Hurricane Lounge is the Black Grouper Chowder.

I recently returned there after many, many years, and I was disappointed to see how it had grown (to three stories), and I could no longer order food in the bar. How disappointing. I don't know if the grouper chowder and grouper sandwich are as good as they used to be because I didn't stay after seeing how commercial the place had become. I'm leaving it here on this site because I have memories of how nice the place was when it was still just a little beach bar and restaurant.

The address of the Hurricane Lounge is 807 Gulf Way, St. Petersburg (Pass-a-Grille), FL 33706. The phone number is 727-360-9558.

Foxy's
*"Where friends are met
and memories made"*