

## Chapter 4: Nice to have friends and a new mooring

55-72

10/17

Oct 17th Sat  
today I fly home - I have  
done all I can for now on  
Miss Tradewinds

I start to feel bad like  
I'm loosing. There is a  
lot to worry about, the  
Centerboard situation is not  
good.

Out of the blue my sister  
Michelle called yesterday  
she said "How you doing  
Bro?" I said "I'm in  
your old neck of the woods"  
she said "You're kidding so  
am I."

Long story short after I  
finished up on Tradewinds  
got the inflatable, engine  
and all my tools into my  
truck I called Michelle

She gave me the address  
to her friend ~~Maries~~ house  
Maury

56  
here I sit now comfortable  
at a table on the screened in  
porch.

Last night a hot shower  
and a beautiful home cooked  
meal of Lamb - sweet <sup>green beans</sup> potatoes &  
Salad <sup>also</sup> Maury made me Breakfast

8:30 I drove to the Boathouse  
to see if I could leave my  
9.9 yamaha outboard to have the  
service done. no one around  
the doors were locked!

then I drove around the corner  
to the Storage unit where I  
met James. I talked with  
James for a few minutes.

1:48 pm Sitting at the gate in  
Savanna Airport waiting to fly  
out.

I feel like Tradewinds  
has a better chance. there  
is never enough time on these  
trips or I think I can get  
things done and some days it  
just doesn't happen.

I spent a couple of hours

this morning sorting out my truck. I had been pulling stuff & tools in & out of it all week. It was dark last night by the time I had all the stuff off the Boat and in the truck. I tried to sort & organize but at the end I stuffed things ~~to~~ anywhere and everywhere. <sup>to</sup> My sister Michelle <sup>Dr</sup> sent me the address to her friends house. I was tired and dirty from climbing through the engine room <sup>wiring of</sup> plumbing the new bidge pump. I got some <sup>PT</sup> plywood covers over the forward hatches that had blown away. I sealed up places along the rails where water had been coming in, I put the floor boards back where they came from. I covered the sails. The main & the mizzen with tarps and lashed them along with rope. I put extra lines around the end of the booms to keep

them from moving around. Then it was straight up and stow things away. I was out of time. The inflatable was piled high I bid farewell to Tradewinds.

I don't have a trailer for the Zodiac so I put it up on a rack over the roof of my pickup. This morning I went back to Mamp's straightened out my truck. at 11:00am I drove to the Moss Creek Storage and parked the truck. My sister met me there and drove me to the airport on the way. she asked practical questions I explained the ins and outs the ups & downs. In the end ~~she said to me it sounds~~ we hugged and I headed for the plane.

I've been in the air for an hour now. I dozed off for a while that was nice. I woke

up thinking about the up coming expense, also I was thinking about the whole Broad Creek situation. At Mameys this morning she handed me the paper on the front page was a sailboat that had run aground after drifting about in the river. the article was well written and explained the complexity of the problem since the whole area on Broad creek south of the Bridge is a Hot Bed of Controversy. its difficult to know what the right thing to do is.

I need to be open minded about the anchorage. if I invest in a proper mooring and the authoritys kick me out I lose thousands of dollars and could be back to square one.

A heavy anchor is a consideration

a proper mooring is tried & true.

7:10 I'm sitting out in front of the Airport in Boston - I had called my friend Fred earlier because I didn't think I would be able to catch the last Bus that connected to the Vineyard Ferry. The plane landed early and I got to the Bus stop with 6 minutes to spare. So instead of spending the night Hyannis its looking like I'm going to be home on the Vineyard!

Oct 9th Back to work almost I left the house to go put Sheathing on a roof. half way there my Portier Paco called and said its going to rain hard lets do this tomorrow. finest kind I thought I had so many loose ends to pull together.

I went to see my Nephew Ben there is a 20' mako with a 185 Evenrude abandoned behind his Building. if I can get it

<sup>61</sup>  
for nothing it could possibly  
be the service boat for the  
(Tradewinds). I met with Ben  
and he texted the guy who left  
the Boat behind his shop & asked  
him if he had a title. the guy  
texted back that he would look  
for it tonight. the boat has  
been sitting for a couple of years  
so I will have to bring it  
back slow especially the engine  
it has a 185 hp Evinrude.

I left Ben & went by Bill  
& Donna's house - then I went  
to Ed's shop - back to Oak Bluffs  
over to Dani & Billy's then to  
Kennys house. In the meantime  
I called my ins co. and put  
my friend Trent on my Policy  
He was living on a Boat in St  
John. that is now on the Bottom  
of the ocean thanks to Hurricane  
Irma. Trent & his girl Dawn  
made there way to Fla with  
the clothes on their backs, then  
up to Hilton Head, I'm letting

<sup>62</sup>  
him use my toyota pickup truck  
while I'm on the Vineyard so  
he can get back on his feet.

Trent called me and told  
me that he went down to the  
bay and looked at Tradewinds  
and she looks fine.

Oct 10<sup>th</sup> Tues

The rain and the wind have  
let up here. I hope the weather  
turns sweet in the Carolinas  
I feel more at ease with  
Trent in town and another  
set of eyes on Tradewinds

Oct 11<sup>th</sup> Trent texted me  
today with news that the  
new 9.9 Yamaha was in for  
break in service. yea!

Oct 12<sup>th</sup> Back in the swing of  
things here on the Vineyard.  
Thinking about the next best  
thing for Miss Tradewinds  
a trailer for the Zodiac  
would make us more independent.

the Starter for the Diesel Engine needs to be rebuilt Spike told me he could get it done. He took the starter to Conn. with him. Now he tells me that he doesnt have time to deal with it so I have to get it back. I will need to go to Yankee auto Electric. Or some place in New Bedford.

Oct 14<sup>th</sup> Yesterday was my sister Pattys birthday. I got a text from Trent saying he saw the tradewinds from the Bridge shes looking good. He said he was on a hunt for a trailer for the Zodiac. I talked to Spike He is going to mail me the starter.

Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> No sign of the starter this week I've been checking the mail. Chris from Majors diving called. He dove on the mooring on Thursday. He said it was

a cluster of old rotten chain & ropes hanging off a barnacle encrusted Engine Block. We talked about options. Chris is going to install a brand new mooring set up next week. I texted the news to Clay and to Trent.

Going into the Winter with a new mooring I'll sleep so much better. Next I would like to Haul the boat out & glass over the hole in the bottom of the hull where the center board drops down. If I can stop the leak untill I can fix it up proper the Tradewinds should be ready for winter storms.

mon.  
Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>

I had a long talk with trent today. We talked a lot about the situation in St John and about the situation with tradewinds. It was good upbeat. As much as trent wants to get

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back to Coral Bay it sounds  
like he is going to stay in  
Hilton Head area for a while.  
There is a curfew in effect  
on St John no one out in the  
streets after 6pm. It is so  
bad down there no electricity  
no running water for most  
people.

Fri Oct 27th

Clay texted me that he  
is back from Oregon. He said  
he checked on Tradewinds and  
things are ok. He did tell me  
that I had the boat too  
closed up and that there was  
a lot of condensation in the  
boat, "It's raining from over-  
head" He said, I had  
left the port holes open before  
I closed everything up tight  
when I left. We will have  
to try to find a happy Medic

66  
Wed Nov 1st

I'm sitting at Humphreys  
Bakery at Woodland in Vineyard  
Haven. I talked to Clay at  
the end of the yesterday. He  
trouble shot the electrical  
system and told me the  
solar panel was not working.  
He is getting two new panels  
one for each pump system.

Also I got the starter back  
from Spike. I was talking to  
Derek & Wess at Vineyard  
Auto. They told I told them  
I was going to look for a rebuild  
in New Bedford. They said bring  
it in if there's one out there  
we will find it for you. I  
haven't heard from Major diving  
this week. Clay says Tradewinds  
is sitting pretty. He opened  
up the port holes and the  
boat dried up nice.

Michele bought a house in  
Vineyard Haven. That puts me  
close to the docks. What an

67  
incredible blessing. Finding  
the house was a fluke.

NOV 2<sup>ND</sup> <sup>6am</sup> Mike the owner of  
Major's dining called. He  
said they could put the new  
mooring in on Fri. I called  
Clay. Clay said he would work  
with Mike's guys to get her all  
situated on the new hook.

Fri Nov 3<sup>RD</sup> 7:45am  
It's calm and quite here  
on the Vineyard this morning

All quiet on the Eastern  
front. I didn't hear a word  
from South Carolina today.  
Clay had mentioned to me  
that some safety wires along  
the rails would be smart.  
I put a call into Danny  
at the Used Marine Store. He  
had shown me a set a couple of  
months ago. I left a message.

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Danny called back. He said  
he still has the stanchion set.  
He told me that he had some  
other stuff he wanted to show  
me. I'll be there tomorrow he  
said. I told him I have  
to finish a roof before it  
rains again but I would  
be there next week some  
time. The Used Marine  
Store is in Yarmouth on  
RT 28.

Tue Nov 14<sup>th</sup>  
Rainy but mild here on the  
Vineyard this morning. Last  
Thursday I got over to the Cape  
I met Danny at the Used  
Marine Store. I bought the  
stanchions some rope and two  
classic old bronze mast caps.  
Trent called He told me He was  
heading back to St. John.  
He is putting my Tacoma  
pick up back at Peter's Storage  
Units - When I was at Danny's  
Store He showed me a Heater



69.

a Taylors Stainless steel propane Heater. The next day I sent a picture of it to Clay. He said it's nice if it works.

Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> Mike Mavis called yesterday to tell Tradewinds is all set on her new mooring.

I knew this because Clay had sent me a text and a picture from his phone the day before. Now she is safe on the hook for the winter. Clay has installed 2 new Solar panels so Tradewinds now has three pumps all separate with their own batteries panels and charge controllers. I have a Heater to send down. Clay is <sup>going to</sup> fixing up the engine Hatch cover and the Hatch to the cabin to keep the rain water out - Back to work for me here.

Nov 21<sup>st</sup> 7am

70

It's been blowing hard here for four days. I helped Knoll with his boat. Yesterday I texted Clay and asked for his address. I am going to send him the Heater I got from the used Marine Store. On Saturday I got a little trailer for free in Edgartown thanks to Knolls. It will be perfect to launch the inflatable.

Dec 1<sup>st</sup> I'm at the Scottish Bakehouse. Things have been moving along. Michele bought a house on Greenwood ave in V.H. That means I have a house on Greenwood ave. A place to call home. A base station. I have been keeping in touch with Clay. He has been doing a little work on Miss Tradewinds. He told me of all the rotten wood he is finding all

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throughout the boat, I was just beginning to feel better then reality strikes. I not surprised, Clay is bringing me up to speed as he works his way through the engine room around the transom. Cleans out cabinets - lockers the list grows & grows. I knew it was bad. But the truth is its worse.

Years of neglect - Fresh water leaking in all over the place - Desinagrating plywood decks, the good news. Well for now its a lot of bad news and the list is long, I have Clay working with me. He knows a lot and is Honest.

I mailed off the Propane Heater - I sent Clay \$500.00

Max texted me I called

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him back. He told me stays from Coral Bay He just got back from ten days down there. Things are really rough for those folks, I am supposed to go there in Jan. Tracy called and said He was on his way up to Savanna to get the paperwork straightened out on tradewinds. I hope he can get it done, last week I helped Knolls cut apart a 26 Foot Fiberglass Boat that was headed to the dump. I salvaged a bunch of good parts and some Fiberglass Hatches - Fuel tank - Engine cover - I dont know if the Fuel tank will fit tradewinds chances are that it will.

Sunday Dec 3<sup>RD</sup>

Things seem under controll with Tradewinds, I got a call from Fity in Coral Bay. He gave me low down on what its like to work down in Coral Bay. Sounds Hard

# Chapter 5: Snow on the Vineyard, rain in Hilton Head, and still no power on St John

72-82

12/3/17

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no power yet. Everybody is running off generators

He said it looks like a war zone all around Coral Bay I'm trying to finish up Dan's deck and plan when I can go south, one foot in front of the other for now.

Tuesday Dec 5<sup>th</sup>

6:30 pm It gets dark so early its hard to get in a good days work. I texted Clay this afternoon. He texted back that he had received the Heater in the mail. He said he was going to get to work on the engine Hatch.

Dec 6<sup>th</sup> Clay sent me pictures of a small boat trailer - perfect for inflatables. I talked to him for a while on the phone. In the end I decided to buy the trailer it was only \$250.00. Now

74

I will be able to launch the tender for Tradewinds then stow it away when needed.

Dec 8<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm

I got a call yesterday that the Starter for Tradewinds was back from the Rebuilder. I picked it up this morning the Bill was \$360.00 but they did it! If it works half as good as it looks I'll be psyched! What a professional job looks like brand new.

I talked with Clay today he said they were getting three days of rain. All is well with the Boat.

Dec 15<sup>th</sup> 8:30 am 19 degs outside

We had the first snow of the season. This morning its cold & calm. I got a text from Tracy last night that he has gotten the paperwork straight

on Tradewinds. that would be Huge. Just last week I was contemplating the Hassel of me trying to get the title to the Boat starting with nothing but a story - no paperwork. Now I have to get money back into the Tradewinds account.

Fri Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> 7:45 pm

I've been really busy every day. I picked up a copy of Wooden Boat after work. As I read it my thoughts returned to Tradewinds. It's such a big project and I don't have the money so I'm going to have to get realistic. I definitely have to remove the rotten plywood on the decks and the top all along the the rails. Also I need to deal in some way with the leak and rotten wood around the centerboard trunk.

at the time of haul out I need to get a professional survey. I need to get this project planned out.

Dec 26<sup>th</sup>

I've been doing a lot of reading up on different techniques of building interior frames, Cold molding, Possible ways to rebuild the centerboard trunk. I have decided I need to reach out for help.

I'm going to do whatever I have to do to get a proper survey done. Also I am going to go to some classes at the Wooden Boat School.

Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 New years day it's been bitter cold for days now between 8 & 15 degrees. this morning we walk up to 4 degrees it's now noon and it's up to 10. A new year deserves a new

Plan. the new plan is to get the Tradewinds up here to the Vineyard. Its going to be a long drawn out project. From here I can keep working and fix the Boat at the same time.

Michele told me that her friends Andy & Katie trucked their Sailboat cross Country from Seattle. Katie told Michele that there is a web site that vessel Truckers can be located -

This approach accomplishes a couple important things all at once. First in order to truck it the masts must come out. The masts both of them need extensive work or need to be replaced this move would head that part of reconstruction in the right direction. Second the boat will be here up north where it was going

eventually. I can keep her secure & work to bring her around.

Fri Jan 5<sup>th</sup> 9am

A winter storm named Grayson came through here yesterday - the same system went through South Carolina Clay texted me a picture of Tradewinds on her mooring saying everything is good with the boat.

Sunday Feb 4<sup>th</sup>

I just got back from a quick trip down to St John I stayed in touch with Clay. Clay told me everything was good with Tradewinds. I tried to get together with Tracy but it didn't happen.

I did hang out with Trent for a day. He took me out to his new Boat. He and Laura

were working to Salvage an Anchor. It was a beautiful day the wind was strong. Trent took me for a ride in the Skiff we viewed the wreckage of sunken boats & Boats smashed together up in the Mangroves,

Fri Feb 9th

Clay called yesterday and told me that the little trailer has to be moved, I hope he can figure it out because I can't do much from here.

Feb 14th

V day. I talked to my sister Michelle the other day. We caught up then she asked about the boat. Her first question as allways

is do you own it yet. Do you have clear title. I have to answer no, "Dont put any money into them" the boat is in the water, its in a iffy position, its safe for now, but that could change in a flash. I told her my plans as they have evolved up to now. I explained that I want the boat up here where I can look after it and work on it. My idea is to take it north first From Hilton Head to the Chesapeake Bay. I need to find some affordable spot where I can patch up the really bad spots so I can then make the trip North. Michelle said I should call Bill Clark. Bill has a marine Company somewhere near Annapolis Md, I called today and left a message. Bill went to High school with us in Hingham. I dont know



how long its been since  
I have seen him.

Feb 24<sup>th</sup> Its Saturday night.  
I started worrying about  
the Tradewinds all alone on  
the hook down in Broad creek  
Its been cloudy every day  
So I sent a text out to Clay  
He got right back to me that  
all is well with Miss  
Tradewinds. I texted him that  
I was concerned that the  
batteries might be low because  
of no sun. Its been gloomy  
on the Vineyard. He told me  
the suns been out. He has  
been doing a lot of sailing  
He said the batteries are  
charged and He checks  
the boat often.

Feb 26<sup>th</sup> Im thinking about  
how I can make a stop  
in Hilton Head on my  
way down to St John. I  
need to make a list of