

## **Trip Report – Mother’s Day Cruise**



First there were three (boats) and then there were two! Robert Elwell, Michelle Linderberger and their daughter Brianna along with Dan Wallace sailed down from Hernando Beach on “Midnight Sun”, while Dean Perry, Sue Gelineau, and their dog “Rooker” on “Fine Alee”, as well as Yours Truly and wife Nancy on “Inspiration” made the trip from Hudson. We all anchored that first night (Saturday) between the spoil islands just west of the Municipal Marina in Dunedin. A very pleasant night with a cool breeze.

Unfortunately, when Sunday morning came around, “Midnight Sun” apparently had some battery power issues, was unable to continue the cruise and returned to Hernando Beach. That left the crews of “Fine Alee” and “Inspiration” to dinghy ashore, tie up at the marina’s day dock, and explore Dunedin. We had a delightful Mother’s Day lunch at the Dunedin Smokehouse, walked around Dunedin for a while and then returned to our boats to spend that afternoon relaxing, having burgers on the boat for dinner.

Day 3 (Monday). We said goodbye to Dunedin and headed south. Inspiration needed a pump out and found the outer day docks at Clearwater Harbor Marina (under the bridge) to have a free self-service pump out with water and trash receptacles readily available. The staff was very courteous, and I can’t say enough positive about the experience... and it was FREE! (Although yours truly did experience a slight splash while pumping out, but that’s ‘nuff said about that!)



We then motored to the dock and the anchorage in back of **Frenchy’s Saltwater Café** on Poinsettia Ave. in Clearwater Beach, dinghied ashore to Frenchy’s dock, and enjoyed their **She Crab soup** (to die for) along with salad and Seafood pot pie. Walked around Clearwater for some time with the obligatory stops at the souvenir shops and then dinghied back. As a side note, the floating dinghy dock at the library close by is now limited to 15 minutes stays (attended) so it’s no longer a spot to tie up your dinghy and walk around the area.

Day 4 (Tuesday) Weighed anchor (Dean with his windlass, me with my back) and went out Clearwater Pass where we had a nice sail up to Three Rooker, and then turned in to anchor there for the afternoon and evening. Had great hors d’oeuvres aboard “Fine Alee” (thanks, Sue!) and enjoyed another pleasant evening with cool breezes.

Day 5 – the last leg. Enjoyed a great sail from Three Rooker with the wind off our port quarter and had plenty of water in the Hudson channel to make it back to our docks by midafternoon.

**Editorial Comment:** It’s sad that so few boats now participate in our cruises. Not that many years ago we had lots of short and long-distance cruisers, but that number has now dropped significantly. I’d like to encourage any and all who have a boat, sail or power, that has overnight accommodations to participate in our planned cruises. It’s FUN!

*Guy Colson*

Cruise Captain