

Episode 4 – Titusville Municipal Marina To Vero Beach Marina



Starting March 17

After they postponed the launch from Cape Canaveral, we decided it was time to move on. The biggest concern for traveling on a boat is the weather. We listen to the weather forecasts diligently, but somehow the wind doesn't listen to the weather man. We thought the weather was going to be suitable to leave on Tues the 18th, so we moved from our slip out to a mooring ball on the 17th to be ready to go. It was nice to have a dolphin escorting us to our spot. He was too fast for me to get a picture though.

Unfortunately, the wind came up Monday night and we were tossed about all night. It was rough to try to sleep in our cabin with the pounding waves. I wonder if having two pontoons and a delta pod makes it louder.

We started to leave Titusville on Tuesday, but there was too much wind. That night we made up the bed in the salon thinking that might be more comfortable. –A little, but not much.

Wed, we finally sailed away. We left the "Space Coast" and entered the "Treasure Coast." We had a beautiful day and made it past Melbourne before we put out an anchor. The water was calm and it was great for sleeping until a little after 1 am, then more waves. We moved up to the cockpit for the rest of the night. Needless to say, we did not sleep well for the third night. Morning brought a beautiful day and we headed south.

We made it to **Vero Beach Marina** on Thurs 20th and tied onto a mooring ball at the very back of a cove. It was VERY quiet and peaceful, but a long way from the dock. Again, we had a dolphin lead the way to our spot. The first thing on the agenda was a nap. It was so pleasant.

We haven't put our motor on the dingy yet, so rather than do that, Doug rowed the dingy to the dock - a long way. We showered and felt clean for the first time all week. Then when he started rowing back, someone offered us a tow. Big help! What a great evening we had back there. We were able to get a full eight hours sleep for the first time all week. The next day we moved the boat up to a slip where all we had to do was to step onto the dock, no rowing.

I brought my old laptop on the trip. When I say old, I mean Jan 2009 old. I have had a few close calls when I thought it would die on me, so I have been very diligent in putting everything important, including pictures, on my external hard drive. Unfortunately, the external is about as old as the laptop, so it got to the point where the prongs would not fit and allow me to plug it in. We had checked on line and knew the first Best Buy (where I bought it) was in Vero Beach. There was even a free shuttle bus to travel to the mall. After having another great hot shower, we took the bus to the airport to catch the bus to the mall. An hour or so later we made it to Best Buy, but they said they could not do anything to retrieve my "stuff." After leaving Best Buy we happened to walk by Office Depot, and they had no problem getting my data off, but I had to leave it there. That meant we would not be leaving Vero Beach until we got it back.

Next stop, Burger King! I must say Doug has prepared wonderful breakfasts and dinners for me each day. I was in charge of sandwiches for lunch and clean -up. Even though we had had great food all along the way, a quarter pounder with cheese and fries (onion rings) was a treat. We made stops at Publix and Books a Million, then to the bus stop in front of Burger King. About a five hour adventure.

We looked forward to a pleasant night tied up to the dock, but while we were watching Downton Abby, I kept hearing a funny noise like a crackling fire. Doug helped me look everywhere, but we could not find any problem. We finally went on to bed, but I was very uneasy. The next morning, we were talking with some folks we met on the bus trip. They said what I was hearing was the shrimp eating the algae off the hull of the boat. Instead of something to worry about, it was God providing a cleaning service. We slept very well that night.



On Sat, we got a call from Office Depot that my new external hard drive was ready. We jumped on the next bus and headed back to the mall. After getting the hard drive, we went back to the bus stop and waited, and waited, and waited. It turns out that the buses don't run after two on Sat afternoon. A bus headed to the garage finally stopped and told us. Fortunately, Doug had picked up the taxi number from the office, just in case. We then sat in Books a Million and waited another hour for the taxi to come. I found some great books on the \$5 table. Most marinas have libraries where you can trade books you have read for books someone else has read. I thought the \$5 books would be good for trading.

So far, I have read three books, we have listened to three books on tape that I downloaded from our library in the Villages, we have watched all season one of Downton Abby and part of season two. I finished a lacy granny afghan and have made great progress on Lucas's (grandson) graduation afghan. Doug has completed MANY Sudoku puzzles, Free Cell games and Spider solitaire, along with writing a detail captain's log of the trip.

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