

Managing the Guide

...How to Use this Book

WE'VE USED them all. And with several other Florida Keys publications on the market, it's fair to ask, "Why another?"

Each book has its merits, but we found we were using a handful of cruising guides, supplemented by additional reference publications. We carried a road atlas for county names. We used government publications for tides, Coast Guard, and weather resources. We purchased regional guidebooks for local tourism information. We relied on private booklets to locate towing companies or marine stores. What we really needed was an *enriched* guide, one melding all of this information in a concise, accessible format.

Managing the Waterway's simplest single improvement is "pulling it all together," providing captain and crew with information they need, when and where they need it.

How do you clean out your garage? Most people start by throwing every item onto the driveway. Then ask: What is necessary? How is it used? How often do I need it?

That's what we did with MTW. We took an overwhelming quantity of information and re-packed the garage. We asked ourselves what information was actually needed in a cruising guide. We pondered how information should and would be accessed, and avoided appendices or alphabetical lists.

We extracted and highlighted information usually relegated to reference tables or

government publications and included it on *each* page as it's needed.

Using newspaper design, pages are chock-full of information. This means less page-flipping. So wherever you are in the CRUISERS TRIANGLE—a newbie focused on piloting or a seasoned snowbird hoping to spot wildlife—the info is right in front of you!

A PILOTING GUIDE

Of course we include detailed mile-by-mile piloting information, alerting you to marinas, anchorages, crossovers, waypoints, routes, and nav aids. We also include a new LAND & SEA NAVIGATION section, a collection of NOAA charts and County land maps. Now you can *see* where you're going, either on land or on the water.

There are 110 WATERWAY MARINE FACILITIES, each with contact, approach, and service information. And 172 anchorages, each described at its mileage rather than grouped in an anchoring section. We integrate hundreds of GPS waypoints. Cautions and piloting concerns are described mile-by-mile and highlighted in a unique ROLLING HEADER™ at the top of each page, letting you manage potential delays or safety concerns.

A NAUTICAL RESOURCE

We weave in important reference information from official publications. Each marina and anchorage listing includes its spring tidal range. LAND & SEA NAVIGATION shows annotated County maps, featuring shoreside

Diana's Perspective

You didn't come this far to just **look** at the water did you? Jump in! The Keys are so much more than simply doing the Duval Crawl through Old Town Key West.

Like our ICW guide, we've tried to make it easy to explore and appreciate the stops off what Mark calls the "Florida Keys Three-Step." Historic sites, state and national parks, and Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary dive and snorkel sites await you.

And to make everything easy to access, we've added a new section titled LAND & SEA NAVIGATION. In this section we annotate NOAA charts and County maps with the marinas, anchorages, crossovers, waypoints, pharmacies, grocery stores, chandleries, pet hospitals, and other waterborne or shoreside references you'll appreciate on your first, or twentieth, trip to the Keys.

So dig in to a quiet anchorage in Florida Bay. Fish for dinner. Cross over to Hawk Channel to visit the reef. Pick up a mooring at Lignumvitae Key and dinghy ashore.

Or plan which "populated cluster" to shop for groceries, mail a package, fill a propane tank, **and** find a triple washer for the bedding. More efficient pit stops equal less stress and more time for play!

Remember, the Keys aren't as much South Florida as they are the northern Caribbean. MTW is the planning partner that helps you slow your pace and heart rate enough to enjoy the anole in the marina shower, the taxi trunk that won't open, and all the other wonderful Keyise experiences of life on The Rock.

Diana
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services such as groceries, hardware, and marine stores; libraries, post offices, and laundries; pharmacies, hospitals, and animal hospitals. The BIG PICTURE™ maps show counties and the locations of NOAA weather towers. The ROLLING HEADER on each page highlights the nearest NOAA weather channel, Coast Guard station, and towing companies.

AN ICW TOUR

Nearly 200 INTERPRETIVE VIGNETTES delve into regional history, culture, and wildlife. Part history text, part field guide, part tour book, these story clips take you on a colorful pre-cruise. We include hundreds of websites & telephone numbers for local resources and FEATURED ATTRACTIONS.

A WORKBOOK

We demanded a slim and light design—small enough to toss in a bag and take ashore. MTW is a cruising guide designed to make the trip with you: it's a *workbook*, not a coffee table book. With UV-coated cover protection, lightfast inks, and a high-quality Wire-O® binding, it's a book for the salt air not for the shelf.

Fold the book over on its spine, clip it against the wind, and mark it up with underlining for emphasis, time logs, destination notes, taped business cards, or highlighting. This is *your* cruising guide, these are your notes and reflections; the book only gets better with your annotations! ▲