

Managing the Guide

...How to Use this Book

WE'VE USED them all. And with more than a dozen ICW publications on the market, it's fair to ask "Why another?"

Each book had 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 needed in a cruising guide. We pondered how information should and would be accessed, redesigning the layout away from 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 tricks, the pages are chock-full of information. This means less page-flipping in the cockpit. 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, cuts and canals, bridges, junctions, ranges, inlets, security zones, and alternative routes.

There are approximately 350 WATERWAY MARINE FACILITIES, each with contact, approach, and services information. And nearly 300 anchorages, each described at its statute mile rather than grouped in an anchoring section. The 141 bridges are also detailed at their statute mile, rather than listed in an appendix. 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 local spring tidal range. The BIG PICTURE™ maps

Diana's Perspective

For most of us, traveling the Intracoastal Waterway is a dream come true.

You've worked hard your whole life and this is one of your rewards! A thousand miles of changing scenery, incredible wildlife, and fascinating maritime communities.

But the ICW can be a hard ride. When Mark jokes about grocery safaris or points to a spot he "late-night anchored", I think "Wow, what a rough way to go!"

Cruising isn't an easy lifestyle; why make it harder?

Given moving the boat, running a household, and home schooling, we have a very full schedule. But learning to **manage the waterway** has made it, well, enjoyable.

Planning allows us time to stop more, see more, do more, and learn more. But you can only do that if you have the information you need, organized in an accessible format.

Planning ahead is our key to having the time and composure to look beyond the navigation aids.

Can you imagine missing the eco-tour of a lifetime because navigation, moorage, or provisioning worries drove your agenda?

We hope our guide removes some of those worries; then we'll take you on that tour!

Diana
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show counties and the locations of NOAA weather towers. The ROLLING HEADER on each page highlights the nearest NOAA weather broadcast, Coast Guard station, and towing companies. We identify 192 WATERWAY CHANDLERIES, with distances from the closest ICW marinas.

AN ICW TOUR

Over 260 INTERPRETIVE VIGNETTES delve into regional history, culture, and wildlife. Part history text, part field guide, part tour book, these story clips (and 200 photos & illustrations) take you on a colorful pre-cruise. We include over 1200 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 higher 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! ▲