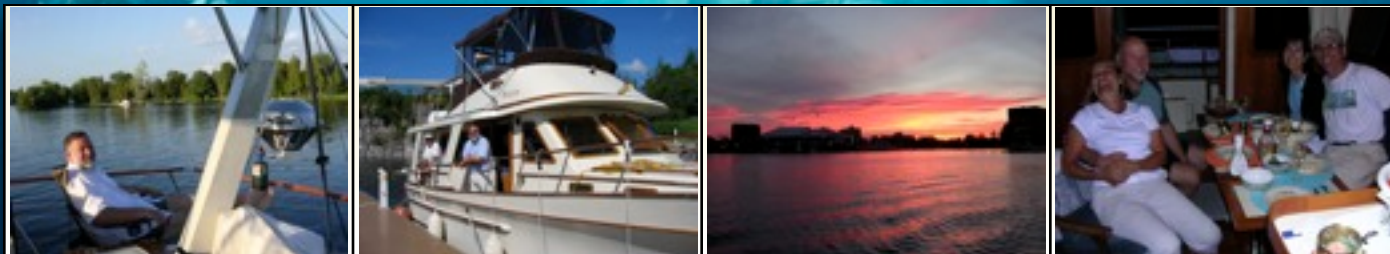


CRUISE

R E P O R T



OFF TO A GREAT START

Freedom on the move and loving it.

Our plans are working out very nicely. We were able to get out of the Erie Canal after a week or so of delays. We made it to Lake Ontario in only three days. We had to wait for weather to clear a few days and then proceeded to Kingston, Ontario.

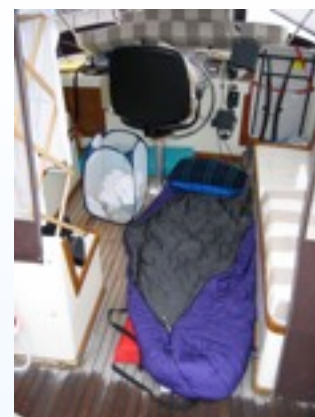
We followed the Rideau Canal north from Kingston to Ottawa. Along the way we met several other cruising couples. Some had been living on board for years others only part-time and some were just vacationers. Everybody is basically going to the same place but they are taking different routes to get there. We found that you hook up with a boat for a few days when they're going your way and you enjoy their company. Later, they go south and you stay another day. Another boat comes along and you go with them. It's loose but comfortable. And the people are very, very friendly and helpful.

In Ottawa, we anchored in a small man-made lake only 3 miles from downtown. Weizer's sister Jan and husband Mark joined us for a few days. We picked up my friend Dick Renn and he stayed a few days till we did Montreal. (see story to right)

I've been trying to stick with my Weight Watcher's plan. I was down 14 more lbs. since departure but last week was a killer, especially with Dick and Mark. Dick loves chocolat! Mark loves

everything! Can you say chocolat fondue? Net gain for Johnny -- 3.7 lbs.

Now, we're on the way to Quebec City. It's about 90 miles from Montreal. It's nice up here. We're having fun learning about the currents, the tides and those pesky big ships. They are faster than you would guess. They can really sneak up on you in a hurry if you don't pay attention.



Fit For a King!!

Our friend Dick is a hot shot judge in York County Pa.

He visited us a few days ago, after a bicycle crash kept him from his planned vacation. We had Weizer's sister and brother in law aboard so we treated Dick to the "Penthouse". At least we let him use the indoor plumbing. Hope it doesn't keep others away.

Are You Bored Yet?

When I proposed this trip, my mother had two major concerns 1) I would die at sea and 2) I would get bored to death. The way I looked at it neither was a satisfactory option

So to prevent both, I installed a computer navigation system.

During a run from Ottawa to Montreal, we encountered a thunderstorm that significantly reduced visibility. Without computer navigation, I would have felt safer anchoring off to the side till the storm passed, but I didn't. Instead, I navigated with the computer and some help from a helpful crew. In a few hours the storm was over and I was able to keep from becoming bored and dying at sea on the same day. What a success!

(See photo on the right)

What's in a Name?

For a long time after I was involved in boating, I did not appreciate the value of a boat name. Now, while cruising full-time I have changed my mind. A boat name is a fast and easy way to remember people, to call them on the radio and to tell others about each other. Our boat name is "Freedom". So, Dolly and Joe just say "Freedom is right behind us" or "We went to the dock with Freedom". Everybody knows that's short for "John and Weizer". It works out well. Too bad Weizer didn't let me name the boat something stupid like I wanted to.



Worth a Thousand Words



Weizer demonstrates boo-boos after ill-fated photo mission.

There is a famous post card of a boat in front of the church in Seneca Falls. I've always wanted to have our boat be in that type of shot. So while in Seneca Falls, I asked Weizer to take a shot from the bridge. She wanted to pack a bag for the camera but I insisted that her pocket would be just fine.

She climbed out and hiked up the hill while I drove the boat over to the location. On the way up the hill, the camera falls out of her pocket. (Hey, I thought she had deep pockets) She calls on the radio. She is using words her mother doesn't approve of. I returned to pick her up and I started to put sneakers on to help find the camera. Meanwhile, she went back up the hill. On the way she found the camera, so I re-position the boat

She's got me moving it just to the right position. "A little more. Hold it. Ok, ready? She fires up the camera, points the lens. WHAT THE HEY?

The camera battery is dead! More naughty words!!! I now know how they get the saying, a picture is worth a thousand words.

Here's the bottom line. This photo is all we've got. It's shows the scratches Weizer got climbing the hill. Not the Kodak moment I envisioned.

CRUISE REPORT-OTTAWA



OTTAWA - Canada's Capital

Ottawa is the capital of Canada. It is a wonderful stop by boat. The canal comes from the south and cuts through the center of the city where it joins the Ottawa River. Built as a military supply route to keep the Americans blocking shipping on the St. Lawrence River, the Canal is now used for recreational boaters.

Lots of Locks

The Canal has more than 40 locks from Kingston to Ottawa. (I could tell you the exact number but I don't feel like looking it up --- but it is a lot) These are small

locks that are operated by crank. This is the same way they have been doing it for more than a hundred years. It's a slow process, you have to relax or you'll go nuts.



The canal system is made up of a series of lakes and rivers that are connected by manmade waterways. The entire system was built in the 1830's in only 6 years. It is one of the best examples of this type of canal in the world. And it is a real pleasant cruising area.

Eight Locks In A Row!!

- The final flight of locks into the Ottawa River is 8 locks in sequence
- Two hours passage - one way
- Breathtaking scenery all the way

Parliament Hill

The government center is on Parliament Hill. House of Commons and Senate are open to the public. Changing of the Guard daily.



CRUISE REPORT-MONTREAL



MONTREAL

Montreal is a large metropolitan city with a very European style. French is the language here, but most shops speak English as well.

The Old Port of Montreal

Most of the tourist action in Montreal is located in the area called "Vieux Mont-



real", The Old Port of Montreal. It is a shipping basin that has been converted to a boat marina and tourist area. They have



an IMAX theatre, a science museum and street performers.

The surrounding city area is very picturesque with narrow streets with shops and restaurants.



To visit Montreal, we docked in the Suburbs at St. Anne de Bellevue. It is a small, friendly town at the mouth of the Ottawa River. Train or bus in to the city. For us it was Dick or Mark drive in to



town.

A few blocks north of the marina, the city becomes very metropolitan. It is a busy centre for shopping and business. We hiked a few miles through the downtown where I was able to report last weeks pig out to Weight Watchers. After dinner and wine, it was off to the train.

They have an interesting train system. We had the map and were following along. The conductor called out occasional stops but you couldn't understand anything--even with the map in front. The stations have very small nameplates on them and they whiz by in a flash. We managed to find the stop. It was an adventure.

