



JEFF MERRILL
YACHT SALES, INC.

3010 Old Ranch Pkwy, Suite 440, Seal Beach, CA 90740
+1 949.355.4950 | www.JMYS.com

Life is a journey...why not live it aboard?

by John and Maria Torelli

Book review by Jeff Merrill



What do you do when you live in one place but have to commute daily to your job a hundred miles away? The answer: buy a “weekday” house. Sounds like reverse logic, but it was a resolution to the conundrum faced by John and Maria Torelli after John got a job in San Diego, nearly a two-hour commute from their main residence in Riverside, CA. The Torelli’s didn’t want to move so they compromised and decided to spend weekdays at a townhome in San Diego. Unfortunately, that commuting schedule left no time to pursue and cultivate their cruising hobby...that is until John had the idea to sell the townhome and purchase a boat to use as their second home. They’ve now spent several years enjoying the working/cruising lifestyle (Maria and their Chihuahua, Daisy, hold down the fort while John is working), which they have done on two different Nordhavns, and have found it to be a truly worthwhile (not to mention pretty genius) compromise.

For those who have not quite yet reached retirement age or need to continue to earn a paycheck in order to finance their boating habit, the Torelli have not only worked out the ideal solution, they’ve perfected it to a T. So much so that John has written a book on the topic called *Life is a journey... Why not live it aboard?* Adjusting to life aboard their seaside weekday getaway was a learning process, but the Torelli’s want people in the same boat as them (so to speak) to know they, too, can achieve the best of both worlds. In fact, it may actually end up costing you less than you might think. The key is proper planning, being flexible enough to make compromises, and then actually going out and doing it.

John knew he had the live aboard thing nailed. He started out relaying the details to friends and associates, curious about his situation. Then, at the January 2009 Trawler Fest in San Diego, he learned just how provocative a topic it really was. On a lark, John approached the folks at PassageMaker Magazine and offered to make a presentation that compared the costs of living aboard a trawler vs. living on land in a home. John had all the receipts and had figured out the

math and was pretty surprised by the lower cost and healthier lifestyle that living afloat offered. I was in attendance when John gave his talk to a packed room and his dry, matter-of-fact style had the audience roaring with laughter and at the same time enraptured with his facts: namely that it was cheaper to live aboard a boat than to live in a home. And though it was a little cozier than a sprawling estate, the lifestyle was much more favorable. (This statement notwithstanding, the Torelli's have put their Nordhavn 40II, *Maria Elena*, up for sale in hopes of moving into a larger Nordhavn to serve as their new weekday abode. (Note: their boat has since sold).

The success at TrawlerFest and John's inability to sit still led to his undertaking a book. He'd never done anything like this before, but heck, this is a guy whose first boat was a Nordhavn so you can't tell him what he shouldn't be able to do. The result is a brand new book (under 100 pages) that is filled with helpful advice for wannabe trawler owners and includes some real world expense data on the costs of ownership. I peeked at an earlier draft and the final product is days away from being shipped to the printer. I am certain that, as potential Nordhavn owner – or even just as a Nordhavn fan – you will find the book enjoyable and worthwhile. The target audience for a book like this is measured in the dozens (well hundreds at most), so John will not get rich from his efforts. In fact, he would probably be thrilled to break even on the publishing costs and will get his biggest reward just knowing he had helped some fellow boaters start out on their own adventure.



With the helpful guidance of Nordhavn explorer Ken Williams (who also has also authored two books which you can order from this same publisher) John set up his book printing with Lulu.com. You can either order the print form or download it electronically. For more information please go to Lulu.com

I was just reading in USA Today that this is the time of year rock bands and bestselling authors release new material so that momentum can build for making a killing during the holiday gift buying season...knowing John and Maria I can only confirm that in their case the timing is just a coincidence, but it does conjure a good excuse for you to order more than one copy. (You might even save on shipping fees!) And after you read your copy, feel free to get in touch with me and I'll talk to you about how much money you can save by moving aboard because John title is spot on life is a journey...why shouldn't you live it aboard?



Jeff Merrill has been with John and Maria Torelli through the purchase and sale process of three different Nordhavns! If you would like to know more about what is discussed in this article or would like to discuss with Jeff how a trawler might fit with your plans please email Jeff.Merrill@JMYS.com, or you can call or text Jeff on his cell phone + 1 949.355.4950. You can follow Jeff on Twitter @merrillyachts. *Note: This review originally appeared on the Nordhavn website in September, 2009 and has been updated.*