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Nordhavn 47 Sea Eagle Soars North

By Jeff Merrill



A great boat listed for sale at a fair price is a fantastic set up that every yacht broker covets. Shortly after posting the photos and listing specifications for Nordhavn 47 *Sea Eagle* on Nordhavn.com/brokerage, I was contacted by **Scott Boyd** who wanted to make arrangements to fly down to Sausalito, CA from his home in Washington to view *Sea Eagle*. We set a date, I flew up to join **Scott** and his wife **Janet**, and we were greeted by the owners of *Sea Eagle*, **Frank and Marlies Dinsmore** who, after nine years of fun filled cruising including trips to Alaska and Mexico, decided it was time to focus on some land and air (**Frank** is a pilot) adventures with their free time.

The **Boyd's** had been actively looking for a full displacement trawler and narrowed their ultimate selection to only two brands, Krogen and Nordhavn.

We met on board and **Marlies** had pastries and coffee ready. *Sea Eagle* radiated warmth and comfort, a very inviting welcome and a true reflection of her owners. The **Boyd's** were instantly impressed and while the ladies talked about the huge plusses of living aboard a Nordhavn, the men focused on navigation and machinery. The meticulously thought out details of this self sufficient boat made the desire to own her unanimous.

Shortly after our visit an offer was tendered and accepted and three weeks later we all gathered again in Sausalito for the trial run and survey. **Matt Harris**, an excellent surveyor whom I've worked with before on several previous Nordhavn purchases, was flown down from WA for the inspection.

We did a short trip to KKMI in Richmond, including a haul out and *Sea Eagle* passed with "flying" colors.

It was very gratifying for me to introduce the two couples. A lot of time and effort had been poured into *Sea Eagle* by **Frank and Marlies** to make her an exceptional trawler. Their hospitality was unwavering and **Marlies** even cooked a special dinner for us all to have aboard one night – delicious and a great way for us all to get better acquainted. (And I wonder why I never lose any weight on these trips!).

14,000 miles of trouble free cruising - the boat rarely sat still and was almost exclusively operated by **Frank and Marlies**, just the two of them. I should mention that **Frank**, in addition to flying, is an incredibly accomplished sailor and won the San Francisco to Kauai single handed Trans Pac sailboat race a few years ago. During our time together we heard stories about this "perfect couples cruising boat" as they recounted their four months of cruising in Mexico, with scuba diving off the boat in warm beautiful waters, **Marlies'** personal preference; two trips from Sausalito, CA to Glacier Bay AK, cruising for four months each trip, visiting each and every B.C. Inlet, as well as many remote waterways of AK. The **Dinsmore's** loved getting away and

the solitude and ease of handling *Sea Eagle*, and she served as their weekend home on the water, rarely at the dock, mostly anchoring inland or off the coast of California.

The **Boyd's** appreciation for all of the finer points made it quite clear that *Sea Eagle* was going to a great new home and that she will continue an active travel itinerary after being relocated to Washington (underway in June).

I flew back up to Sausalito a couple of weeks ago to meet with **Scott and Janet** for trawler training and to review systems and equipment orientation. **Scott and Janet** have easily transitioned from buyers to owners and they intend to scope out an aggressive cruise to conduct wreck diving out in the remote Aleutian Islands – an area not often visited and one that does require the proper type of boat to do safely.

Scott Boyd and his friend, **Jeff Carr**, have published a very intriguing book called, “*Northwest Wreck Dives*” – ISBN 978-0-9821510-1-3 © 2008, which I have now read and found very interesting. I used to do a bit of scuba diving, but never in dry suits and never on wrecks or in such cold water!

According to **Scott** there are a number of “virgin” wrecks on the Aleutian chain, so who knows, maybe a future publication will be forthcoming? In the meantime, the **Boyd's** will be documenting their adventures on their blog, www.nordhaven.com (great domain name!) and *Sea Eagle* is soon to be winging her way north to her new nest.

A final visit with just the two couples in May for a day of orientation cemented a budding friendship and a passing of the baton.

Wishing happy cruising to **Scott and Janet** and sending another round of thanks to **Frank and Marlies** for building such a fantastic Nordhavn!



Jeff Merrill, CPYB, started at Nordhavn in 1999 and loves helping Nordhavn and Nordhavn future owners find their next dream boat. Jeff is licensed in CA and has spent 20 years selling cruising sailboats and trawlers.



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