



PARADISE FOUND

A WEEKEND ON THE BOAT SAVES US FROM THE MONOTONY OF EVERYDAY LIFE. BUT WHAT IF YOUR MARINA BECOMES DULLS-VILLE? THEN IT'S TIME to take a vacation from, well, vacation. These four marinas provide just that. Don't blame us if you never come home. — **JON MEADE**

MONKEY BAY MARINA

WWW.MONKEYBAYMARINA.COM

WHERE Nestled among Guatemala's luscious rainforests on the Rio Dulce. **WHAT** Its 22 slips accommodate boats up to 70'. Electricity, clean drinking water, barbeque, icemaker, laundry, and Internet service make roughing it in the jungle not so rough. **WOW!** Orchids, butterflies, and grass huts create the setting while troops of endangered howler monkeys complete the jungle experience.

ATLANTIS RESORT AND MARINA

WWW.ATLANTIS.COM

WHERE Paradise Island in central Bahamas. **WHAT** Its 63 slips provide for vessels from 40' to 220'. **WOW!** There are 35 bars and restaurants, a casino, a mock archaeological expedition, underwater tunnels to view the tropical lagoons—and a death-defying water slide through a clear underwater tunnel in a shark tank!

ANTELOPE POINT

WWW.AZMARINAS.COM/ANTELOPEPOINT/

WHERE Arizona's Lake Powell. **WHAT** After final construction, it will offer more than 300 slips. All concrete piers are 12' in width and travel vertically with the lake's fluctuating levels. **WOW!** Expect a full lodge and restaurant with buildings that represent the Navajo lands. A cultural center will provide full immersion into the heritage of the Navajo people.

HOPPIE'S MARINA

636/467-6154

WHERE Kimmswick, Missouri, on the Mississippi river. **WHAT** A series of river barges tied together in succession provides a flat, stable mooring. **WOW!** It claims it's the only refueling stop on this stretch of the Mississippi. According to a *BOATING* editor who has visited the marina, one of the barges is completed with Astroturf covering, accessorized with lawn chairs, and strewn with beer cans.

MISSING!

BOATING HELPS
LAW ENFORCEMENT
BRING THIEVES
TO JUSTICE.

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS BOAT?



Lost Mistress

1999 34' VENTURE

Disappeared from Casa Del Sol Condo,
Paradise Island, Nassau, Bahamas.
Last seen September 16, 2005.

Vessel photo prior to hardtop installation and
with previous OMC engine.

Call Nassau Police Dept. at 242/363-4762/66

\$5,000 REWARD



COULD MERMAIDS BE MANATEES?

THE MERMAID MAY BE NOTHING MORE THAN A MANATEE. IT'S BEEN suggested that sailors, robbed of food, sleep, and female lovin' during long journeys at sea, may have mistaken the lumpy giant for the part-fish mystery woman.

Explorers and crew coming to the New World were versed in tales of sirens, the elusive sea women who beckoned sailors and led them astray. It may not be coincidence then that the order in which the manatee belongs is *Sirenia*, from the Latin siren.

Expecting sirens, seafarers conjured them up in the manatee, which may explain why Christopher Columbus depicted New World mermaids as a less attractive version of the sirens he was expecting. The *Sun-Sentinel* reports that while sailing in the Dominican Republic in 1493, the explorer saw "female forms" that "rose high out of the sea, but were not as beautiful as they are represented." Also, in 1789 a Scottish magazine claimed that sailors in the Caribbean caught and ate mermaids and said they tasted like veal. —**KARI SNYDER**