

WELCOME ABOARD!

Nimble Notes

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Special points of interest:

- Your Boat's Ready! Book your 2005 Cruise now!
- The Best place to find your Cruise-USA Trawler
- New Points along the Erie
- Eclectic Cruisers enjoy the NY State Canal System

The Nomad is heading home for the holidays

After a really successful Second Season on the New York State Canal System

The Nomad is heading home for Ocean Springs, resting here for the moment on Dad's back lawn in rural Pennsylvania. We continue to get questions about "how fast" our boat is. We tell people its top speed is "70mph—TO the water" After that, it's a comfortable seven knots, with the 50hp Honda turning an almost silent 2500rpm!

This season started almost as soon as we arrived in New York. Mark trailered the Nomad north to the Macedon Marina, where our first customer completed an orientation cruise enroute to Fairport, NY—where we were tied up to the north wall for the great NY State Canal Days

This is a spirited and eclectic three day frolic, centered in the beautiful canal-side town of Fairport, south east of George

Eastman's favorite town of Rochester, NY. The place fairly crackles with excitement, and boaters lucky enough to be parked along the town wall are in the midst of all the fun! In fact, the venue is so fine that many of our customers plan to spend a couple of nights here before turning the boat around and heading back for Brewerton on their personal cruise adventures



"Backyard Nomad" enroute south

Our first cruisers boarded here, and spent a few days west of Rochester before returning the Nomad to Macedon. This was the boat's first exposure to the western reaches of the Erie, and several who saw her "out west" came to Brewerton later to claim their own opportunity to cruise Oswego and Cayuga Seneca Canal highlights.

Where the Heck is Brewerton Boatyard ?

It's terrible to get everybody excited and then not tell them how to get to see the canal's most personable trawler! Well, if it's ever sitting still, it's **docked** at the **Brewerton Boatyard**. If you ever drive

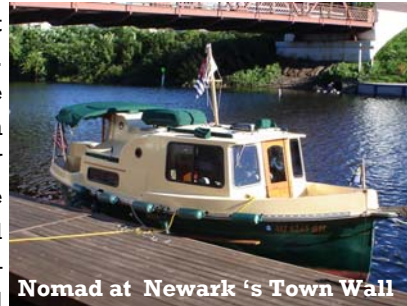
the "fast lane" (US 81) between Binghamton and Wattertown, you've whizzed past Exit 31, just 10 miles north of Syracuse Airport. That exit will take you to Main Street in Brewerton. Turn left before the bridge



We've been everywhere, Man

The 2004 season has been a very wet one for the NY State Canal System. All the rivers and lakes west of Utica drain west to Three Rivers, and then north to Lake Ontario via the Oswego River and Canal. During seasons of particularly high runoff, Oneida, Cayuga and Seneca Lakes all cascade along the canal system, and locks east of 25, down in the Montezuma Preserve, are closed to preserve their integrity. When this happens, the Nomad must begin and end its runs

somewhere west of Brewerton. This year, the delightful town of Newark, NY was host to the boat and several couples — starting and stopping their cruises there. The local police keep a watchful eye on the town's beautiful floating docks and canal-side park. The free boater ser-



Nomad at Newark 's Town Wall

vices there feature brand new washers, dryers, restroom and shower facilities. Free Parking for CRUISE-USA adventurers was provided by the local American Legion Post, who generously invited our cruisers to take advantage of their special dinners and events while they were docked locally. This is a wonderful example of the hospitality extended to boaters by "Canal Folks" along the way.

And they came from Afar to cruise the Canals

By "word of mouth" and website, this year's cruising couples came to Brewerton from lots of places. Two at a time, there were 32 adults (plus one great teenager) aboard from 12 states (spread from California to Maine), as well as Canada and the Virgin Islands. The boat was beautifully trouble-free, and out but a week for scheduled maintenance, and one week because of a last minute cancellation. The Honda ran great for 477 hours

(averaging 25.1 hrs per cruise) and burned under 358 gallons of fuel. We don't plan to make any major changes for the 2005 season—because our clients keep complimenting us on having all the essentials aboard! CUSA customers took wonderful care of the boat, with each new couple complimenting the last for presenting the Nomad in beautiful livery. We did not have to provide extra "service" to bring the boat to "Bristol Fashion",

and we thank our cruisers for that tender care!



Nomad clearing Lock 23 near Brewerton

Don't Whine

Now, Dad's not a "wino" - but he is an honorable (if ancient) judge of fine vintages; long time member of a French Burgundian patriots group called *Chevaliers du Tastevin*, who get together annually in Beune to



Dad at Clos de Vougeot

If You Find Fine Wine— ENJOY IT!

guzzle gallons of gold and purple varietals. He used to be a regular at the tables of winemakers Robert Mondavi and John Sebastiani in California's Napa & Sonoma Valleys. Now confined to Eastern climes—he's discovered the new classics

by winemakers like Seneca's *Atwater Vineyards*. and *Dr. Konstantine Frank*. Since he's aboard the Trawler most of the time you aren't—don't be surprised if you find a wonderful bottle or two from New York's vintage collections. Pull the cork and enjoy a glass while dining aboard. (Just replace the bottles for Dad—OK?) **ENJOY and AHoy!**

Pack to Go—Not to Stay

Back in the 1970's, Dad ran photo safaris to East and South Africa. He taught the art of "packing to go", not "packing to stay". He had everybody re-pack from their hard-sided heavy Samsonites into a small, soft, efficient roll-up bag. Then they could take anything in the world they wanted for a week **AS LONG AS IT FIT IN THAT BAG**. Same idea here. You can't stack, hide, hang or store any of your gear



on the Nomad. What happens is, you **STUFF** it. Don't be awed, it's not awful: one little duffel is plenty big enough for six sets of underwear, six or seven "T" Shirts, three or four pair of shorts and socks. Papa leaves all his shaving gear home, packs his two-AA battery Panasonic shaver, a toothbrush and an old comb. With his cloth hat, and a

tube of sunscreen—he's the coolest skipper on the canal, ready to "dress to enjoy" at a moment's notice. Papa's Theorem: "*Lay out everything you think you'll need, and then put 75% of it away. Half of what's left will fit easily in your stuff bag—and you'll be ready for anything on the canal*". We never wear shoes aboard. They go under the dinette. (A trick we learned on a friend's 65ft. Ferretti mega-Yacht. Owner didn't like getting his white carpets dirty. Barefoot's cool!)

Onboard Entertainment System

Boaters can almost always find something interesting to do on shore. We find that listening to music, reviewing results of our recent video recording, or getting lost in a great film story are wonderful evening diversions. Problem was—we didn't have any place for all the "theater" equipment! **UNTIL NOW!** Mark has come up with handy new integrated equipment that will play DVD/CD-R and MP3 on a portable entertainment system! This

amazing piece of gear will "fit" just about anywhere. (Dad finds that when lying down—the starboard window ledge is a good place to rest the little DVD Monitor). We've got several favorite movies and CD's aboard—but encourage you to bring some of your own, to enjoy while

spending a quiet evening aboard. Your favorite tunes will never sound better than when you listen while cruising on the Canal.



"Your favorite tunes will never sound better than when you're cruising your trawler on the Erie"

Don't fail to "Communicate"

One of the best parts of "being alone on the boat" is that you're only as "alone" as you want to be. The Nomad has a fine, standard Marine-Band VHF transceiver aboard—so getting the attention of lock masters, dock people and folks on other boats is very easy and straightforward. Bring the charger for your cel phone (use the 12v

adapter underway, or your 110v adapter when tied to shore power). You'll note that all the folks advertising for your business along the canal have their phone numbers listed in the Canal Guide. Call a cab, book a bike, or dial a menu! We also have two little FRS radios for



your use to keep in touch with your Mate while you're involved in independent wandering through interesting canal-side neighborhoods.

It's OK to brag when you call home

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Celebrate America's Inland Waterways.

We're on the Web
At www.cruise-usa.com

Mark and Diane Stevens have been “messing about in boats” from their California childhood. Both are avid sailors, and long term boat owners in their southern Mississippi neighborhood. They decided the best thing about a cruising experience for two people is the ability to share it with others. Built by the late Jerry Koch in Ocala, Florida, the Nomad was placed in Bareboat service literally from the day it was completed. Extensive interior modifications have made it an ideal boat for two people—BOTH on vacation—to enjoy

on America's
Inland
Waterways.



Be an Early Bird—Book Your 2005 Season Vacation Now!

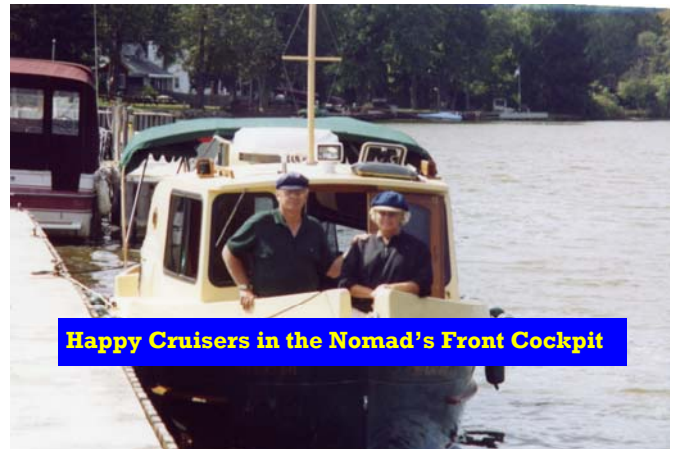
While it's hard to believe, putting the Nomad in salt water for the winter, the 2005 Cruising Season is almost here again! The Nomad will be back on the Canal in early June—probably featured again at Fairport's Canal Days Celebration. Several people have already sent deposits to reserve their choice of dates on the Canal System. One writer has tentatively booked a full month (in separate two week increments) to use as a floating studio during her production of an article on the old Erie Barge Canal.

While our rates may have to increase to cover boatyard, launching and recovery costs—the standard \$1195 rate per week still puts the Nomad well below the cost of contemporary choices. In fact, the boat remains the ONLY vessel

on the Canal System designed especially for two people on full week, 7 day and 7 night operations. Departures will continue to be from the Brewerton Boatyard on Saturday afternoons, with the boat returning the following Saturday morning—pumped out, fueled and re-watered, and cleaned to “Ship Shape and Bristol Fashion” by the renters.

Favorite stops for cruisers this year have been in Phoenix, on the Oswego Canal, Baldwinsville and Cooper's Marina on the Eastern Erie, and lovely Seneca

Falls on the Cayuga-Seneca waterway. Glowing reports have come in from several restaurants in all these places, as well as Fairport, Pittsford and B-Ville. Give yourself a present! Book your cruise NOW



Happy Cruisers in the Nomad's Front Cockpit