



Myrtle Beach Yacht Club

Boat & Stay

Waypoints along the Grand Strand

In the 1970s, Ron McManus fell in love with boating and fishing. A Charlotte native, he's been a resident of North Myrtle Beach since 1994.

"I got here as fast as I could," says McManus, a retired food broker.

McManus and his wife might take their boat down to Charleston for the weekend, navigating the calm waters of the Intracoastal Waterway in search of some good restaurants.

McManus' main interest, however, is sport fishing.

"Traveling to different marinas in different towns is a lot of fun," he says.

He adds, "It's just a wonderful experience on the water with your boat. You have a mobile condo with a view."

All along the waterway from Little River to Georgetown, there are many rooms with a view, and friendly marinas welcoming boaters who choose to dock and stay.

Whether you're a local boater out for the weekend or a transient boater out for the season, there's a place just right for you here.

The Myrtle Beach Yacht Club at Little River is owned by the members, explains Bud Coonfield, dockmaster. Owners can keep their own boats in slips or rent them out, for short-term or long-term

stays.

The marina has such amenities as pump-out at our boat, wi-fi, cable, a pool, grilling areas, exercise room, showers, bathrooms, laundry room, computer access, fuel and gated docks.



Marina Inn at Grand Dunes

"We have 15 cameras here on the docks 24/7," Coonfield says.

The marina is located at the back of Coquina Harbor, with restaurants and a Holiday Inn nearby.

"We have a lot of our good

Northern friends who come and stay six months," Coonfield says. They winter their boats at the marina.

Coonfield will also see many transient boaters from now until the end of the year.

He says they enjoy the quite pace of Little River.

In Conway, boaters may choose to dock at the Conway Marina, which has 24 boat slips.

"We usually have a bunch of weekend and local boaters," says Bradley Todd, dockmaster.

The marina is within walking distance to historic downtown Conway.

"A lot of people like the small-town atmosphere," he says.

The marina has showers and bathrooms, and also offers canoe and kayak rentals.

Close by is the Cypress Inn, a AAA

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4-diamond bed and breakfast.

"It's luxury," says George Bullock. He and his wife are innkeepers along with Anne's brother and sister-in-law, Hugh and Carol Archer.

The 12-room inn has rates of \$135 to \$235 a night, with seasonal adjustments.

"It's not your average place," Bullock says.

Conway's River Walk is right off the inn's front porch.

"We've got traffic all day long of people walking down here," he says.

The inn, Bullock notes, is a perfect place for weddings, anniversaries and honeymoons.

One of his favorite groups are the members of the Personal Watercraft Tours from Atlanta, who come in twice a year. They rent out of the entire inn, often taking their jet skis down to Charleston, stopping for lunch in Georgetown.

"They are definitely interesting people," he says.

Anne Bullock serves a full breakfast. Her specialties include a French toast casserole, eggs benedict, blueberry pancakes and a corned beef hash in winter. "We try to meet any special diet," she says.

Heading down the waterway, you'll find the Harbourgate Marina at North Myrtle Beach.

"We're looking forward to the transient boat season," says Suzi Watson, dockmaster.

The marina is centrally located, and offers 30/50 amp, along with showers,

laundry facilities, pool and grocery store.

The harbor cam is one of its most important amenities, Watson notes.

The marina serves a number of boaters heading south for the winter.

"We're competitive with dockage rates," she says. "Come see why everyone wants to stay at Harbourgate. We're a model of Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway living.

Onsite condos offer stays of one night to six months.

Watson characterizes the marina as a multiuse marina, serving fishermen, cruisers and sailboats.

"If you're looking for good ol' Southern hospitality, come to Harbourgate. We know how to treat our clientele."

You'll find a lot of fellowship on the docks, she says. "She's a sweet marina. We're very boater friendly."

One of her customers is Jim Adams, a native of Delaware who's lived in St. Croix since 1990.

He stopped at Myrtle Beach halfway between the two locations, because his parents were close by.

"I made it a habit of stopping here," he says.

Adams stays on his sailboat, and likes the security at the marina. He likes Watson and her staff as well.

He appreciates the fact that the marina is close to a pier and shopping, and keeps a car in storage, as well as a motorbike on his boat.

Watson notes that fishermen should make reservations now for the annual Rumble in the Jungle king mackerel tournament in October.

In November, the marina will host the Intracoastal Christmas Regatta a parade



Cypress Inn



Harbourgate Marina

of decorated boats. It's the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Spectators are asked to bring an unwrapped toy for Yachts for Tots, benefitting local children.

Watson created the parade 26 years ago. "My life is boating," she says.

Mary Gull of the Marina at Grand Dunes in Myrtle Beach will be welcoming lots of transient boaters this fall and again in the spring.

"We get a lot of boating groups and clubs in for the weekend," she adds.

Boaters are heading out for Florida and the Bahamas and other points south, she says.

Many North Carolina customers have their boats here, she says.

The marina has an inn adjacent to it, as well as three restaurants on site: the Anchor Cafe, Waterscapes and Ruth's Chris.

"It's just so beautiful," Gull says of the property. "We're convenient to a lot of things and we have a shuttle service to the beach."

The complex is located on the Highway 17 Bypass, just across from the Dixie Stampede.

Many groups often come in for shows there, she says.

At the inn, boaters have access to the pool and tennis courts, as well as the golf course.



John Horton

If you want to hang out with the fishermen, head down to Georgetown Landing Marina, established in 1981.

"Our motto is the home of old-fashioned service and Southern hospitality," says

John Horton, operations manager.

"We are a fishing marina," Horton says. Every Memorial Day weekend, it hosts South Carolina's longest ongoing blue marlin tournament.

The marina hosts another half-dozen tournaments during the year, Horton says.

Along with catering to sport fishermen, he says, "We're a very popular spot for transients."

The marina has 1,360 feet of transient dockage, all floating linear docks, with no slips, with a 25-foot depth.

Horton says that the marina has the least expensive fuel of anyone in town.

There's a Lands End restaurant onsite, as well as a Hampton Inn. There are also

showers, bathrooms and wi-fi.

While some marinas are closed on Mondays, Horton says, "We're always open. We have folks who have been staying with us for 20 years. We have transient traffic and local folks. Some people we see twice a year and some people we see every day."

The marina has boat lifts for small boats. It is located one mile from historic downtown Georgetown.

"We have folks who bring bikes on their boat or walk down," he says. "We also have shuttle service."

He adds of the marina, "It's a fun place. We cut up a little bit and have fun."

There's the "liar's crowd," a group of fishermen who gathers every afternoon at the gazebo to discuss the biggest catch of the day - and the one that got away. ↵