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The Conch Republic
COCONUT TELEGRAPH
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The Conch Republic
COCONUT TELEGRAPH

RATES

KEY LARGO MAP PAGE

Vertical:
2.44" wide x 4.5" tall
\$125 per month

Horizontal:
4.5" wide x 2.75" tall
\$150 per month

Bottom Banner:
9.75" wide x 2.75" tall
\$225 per month

Surprisingly Affordable!

Living Dockside and Furloughed

by Ginny Jones

It's definitely been tough times in the Keys due to this Covid-19 stuff. With the Keys literally shut down, a lot of us found we were put on furlough. Some were lucky enough to get unemployment; others not so lucky.

I had a lot of time to do boat projects. I have two port lights in the aft cabin to pull out and replace. But these don't leak, so if it ain't broke, you know the rest of that saying. How about the on-board water tanks? She Breeze holds 100 gallons of water in port and starboard water tanks.

Starboard has a small leak way down at the bottom where the plumbing comes out, and that is where it leaks. All I have to do is pull the holding tank out, cut through a fiberglass wall and... screw that, on to something simpler.

I have wanted to repaint She Breeze's sheer line since Irma left it all scratched to hell. How hard could that be! Last time I had her bottom painted, I asked around to have the sheer line done also. Nobody would do it, one person gave me a quote of \$2800. I thought how fricking hard could it be? It's less than a foot wide area and yes, it's

41 feet each side. I figured a week at most.

I chose a one-part Polyurethane paint called Bright-side, (yeah man, the shiny stuff!). I started on the stern; easy to get to due to a nice swim platform on her backside. So I sanded off the old She Breeze lettering (that hurt), taped up the lines to follow, primed, and did my first coat of rolling and tipping. That entails using a small roller and doing only a couple of feet at a time with paint and then comes the dreaded tipping, which means using a fine haired paint brush and just ever so lightly dragging it across the paint.

I stood back in amazement at what it looked like, it was shiny and beautiful, and I fell off the boat. I shouldn't have stepped back, oops! Crawled out, dried off and continued the first coat. Waited the appropriate interval and did the second coat.

I made that sound so easy, didn't I? Remember I still have 80 feet to go. Decided to do the starboard side first, so had to take She Breeze out and turn her around and put that side up to the dock. Onward with sanding and taping, and screw the primer, the trick is only



do a 2- or 3-foot section at a time. But I had to keep painting until I came to a chain plate before I could stop.

Rolling, tipping, rolling, tipping. Now I understand the quote for \$2800! Bottom line, it took three weeks to complete the job. Some wiseass told me you evaluate this kind of paint job in 10-foot, 20-foot or 30-foot increments. If you stand back 10 feet and it looks great you accomplished

something wondrous. My paint job is somewhere between the 15 foot and 20 foot range... but hey, I wanted something simpler, right?

Check out the bright new "She Breeze" lettering in the photo above, a thing of beauty!



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ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SEA TURTLES NEST ON OUR BEACHES FROM MAY TO OCTOBER

Sea turtles are drawn to light which may cause them to become disoriented and die. YOU CAN HELP PROTECT THEM

Use only red light emitting flashlights on or near the beach
Do not shine lights on or take flash photos of sea turtles
If you see one on the beach please stay well back and don't touch or disturb it
When you leave the beach fill in holes that might trap adult or baby sea turtles
Turn off any lights visible on the beach and close your blinds

