

LOG OF THE MIMI - 2005



CHAPTER 1 – MARATHON, FLORIDA KEYS

New Years Day 2005 - Faro Blanco Bayside Marina

Saturday, January 01, 2005, Docked Faro Blanco (Bayside) Marina, Marathon, FL

U60's-M70's – Partly Cloudy early then overcast, Wind N15-20kts

We're up at the 'crack of 8' putting things together for the 9:00am breakfast party at 'Sombrero Beach.' Mimosas, Bloody Mary's and Red Beer held out while Gary & I do a slow start lighting charcoal for sausage, bacon & eggs. The beach, partially on the lee side this morning, is warm with lots of sunbathers arriving by 11:00am. Eagle-eye Gary spots 2 topless beauties right away. The surf is a lazy once-in-a-while wave on the beach. Some bacon was over-cooked, but it soon disappeared. Meanwhile, Lynn is back on *Wood Duck* suffering with 'champagne flu' and considering an ambulance to 'Fisherman's' Hospital.



New Year's Breakfast – Sombrero Beach

I finally reach Cingular tech support and learn they have digital system problems... duh! No prognosis on when it will be back up.

This afternoon Betty & Cecilia place second in a Hawk Key tennis tournament; I spend some time with my book. Charlie & Cathy have us (and a dozen others) over for pork and sauerkraut New Years dinner; its supposed to bring good luck for the new year... we could use some of Charlie's luck!

Sports: **Rose Bowl** - The Texas Longhorns came from behind to defeat the Michigan Wolverines **38-37** with a game winning 37 yard field goal by Dusty Mangum in the final 2 seconds of the game. Horns MVP sophomore quarterback (192 yards rushing and 180 passing) Vince Young accounted for 5 touchdowns, 4 rushing and 1 passing, tying a Rose Bowl record. **Gator Bowl** – Florida State 30, West Virginia 18. **Capitol One Bowl** - Iowa 30, Louisiana State 25. **Cotton Bowl** – Tennessee 38, Texas A&M 7.

Sunday, January 02, 2005, Docked Faro Blanco (Bayside) Marina, Marathon, FL

U60's-M70's – Partly Cloudy, Wind NE-E15-20kts, Seas 3-6' Bay Waters 'Choppy'

News: The Indian Ocean tsunami confirmed death toll now over 123,000 is expected to go higher as after-effect disease begins to take its toll. Officials noted they have found few dead animals, concluding they

sensed the impending danger and sought higher ground. Worldwide aid pledges have topped \$2 billion. It was reported that the earthquake and subsequent waves released as much energy as 1,000,000 atomic bombs. That energy changed slightly but perceptibly to modern science – the wobble and rotation of the Earth. It also redistributed Earth’s mass, moving the North Pole one inch and causing the length of a day to shrink permanently by three millionths of a second!

Before noon we walk to 7-mile Bridge and lunch at ‘Porky’s BBQ on the way back. Betty has a Grouper sandwich and I enjoy the specialty; North Carolina style BBQ pork with black beans and rice. The pork has a spicy vinegar flavor and is very tasty.

Instead of the beach, we do books, football and small boat things for a quiet afternoon. Snack stuff from the Prewitt’s Christmas basket for dinner, followed by Cowboy’s football; they manage to loose to the New York Giants 28-24 as they close out a forgettable season at 6-10. Julius Jones rushed for 149 yards but it wasn’t enough and Eli Manning won his first NFL game as quarterback for the Giants.

Monday, January 3, 2005, Docked Faro Blanco (Bayside) Marina, Marathon, FL
U60’s-M70’s – Partly Cloudy, Wind NE-E15-20kts, Seas 3-6’ Bay Waters ‘Choppy’

News: President George W. Bush appointed Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton co-chairs of an effort to raise contributions to aid in the Indian Ocean tsunami relief effort.

I can’t believe it... I must be relapsing or I’ve caught a different cold strain! I came down with a cold December 18th and was just getting over the worst by the 30th... now it seems to be starting all over... humbug... IHW! When I call Marathon Boat Yard to complain about the unfinished job, Liz gets defensive and says no point in arguing “who said what!” I told her I arguing, rather I was making her aware of how poorly MBY performed on a simple work order to replace hydraulic hoses and that ‘communication’ and follow-through was unacceptable. She responded that “the hose is on ‘back-order’ and I will call you when I find out when it will ship.”

Rib Cook-off

Tonight we’re having a BBQ rib cook-off on the dock; Gary Bach bought the ribs at ‘Costco’ and we’ll each do our favorite recipe. Betty made potato salad and others brought beans and other plates including Clair Kwasnick’s homemade cheesecake.

While the ribs were grilling, the boys (most of them) enjoyed cigars and complained about the wind that was gusting to 25kts. Sixteen took part though more were invited but the ribs were just right for sixteen as we devoured 6 slabs with none leftover! Taking part were: Marie & Tom Smith, Clair & Ed Kwasnick, Jane & Jim Rifkin, Cathy & Butch Niebur, Judy & Michael Hauth, Cecilia & Ben Hucheson, Gary Bach & Lynn, Cathy Powell (Charlie is back in Maryland), and Betty and I.

The Ribs were terrific... we used Tom’s grill because the heat can be turned low for slower grilling. Everyone proclaimed a tie in the cook-off. Frankly, Gary and I know our ribs were best but graciously accept the contrived vote and agree to re-match.

Betty & I used Emeril Lagasse’s recipe:

Contents	Process
Baby Back Ribs	1. <u>Marinade:</u> Combine Molasses with sufficient amounts of diced Onion, Jalapeno & Cilantro 2. <u>Olive Oil & Rub:</u> Coat Ribs with Olive Oil and Dry Rub 3. <u>Marinate:</u> 12-24 hours 4. <u>Grill:</u> Using a Rib Rack (stand ribs on end), grill over low heat with wood smoke for added flavor for 1 ½-2 hours. When ½ done, add remaining marinade to Ribs
Olive Oil	
Molasses, Syrup or Honey	
Dry Rub	
Pepper, Black Coarse	
Onion	
Jalapeno, Fresh	
Cilantro, Fresh	

Gary wouldn't share his recipe; we know he parboiled his ribs then basted on the grill... they resembled 'sticky fingers' ribs that we had in Chattanooga.

After the party broke up, some of the boys remained watching the Auburn – Virginia Tech football game on Tom's flat-screen wireless TV. Betty and I retired to the *MIMI* to watch 'Man on Fire' with Denzel Washington; it was somewhat violent but well done.

Tuesday, January 04, 2005, Docked Faro Blanco (Bayside) Marina, Marathon, FL

U60's-U70's – Partly Cloudy, Wind NE-E15kts, Seas 3-5' Bay Waters 'Choppy'

News: To help protect orphans from child-smuggling gangs, Indonesia has banned children under 16 from leaving the country. Secretary of state, Colin Powell and Florida Governor, Jeb Bush arrived in the region today to inspect and assess damage from the disaster. **Sports:** USC blows out OU 55-19 in the Orange Bowl to win the national championship.

It's another pretty but breezy day. During the morning I make business calls. No callback from MBY about the hoses. We have a fish sandwich for lunch then spend a couple of hours on Sombrero Beach; it's more crowded than we've ever seen it. I finish 'Supreme Commander'... a really enjoyable and enlightening WWII book. J.D. (boat wash) calls to ask if he should wash the boat... we had agreed on Thursdays but I told him it was his choice today or Thursday and he indicated today... okay. We're back at the *MIMI* in an hour and a half and apparently J.D. decided to wait.

Chicken on the spit and an early turn-in. Ralph called to 'check on us;' he won't be able to travel any for 3 or 4 months because Jeanne is having a knee replacement February 12th.

Damn cold!

Wednesday, January 05, 2005, Docked Faro Blanco (Bayside) Marina, Marathon, FL

L70's-L80's – Partly Cloudy, Wind E10-15kts, Seas 2-4' Bay Waters 'Moderate Chop'

My Cingular wireless email is working... but strangely; after using and disconnecting I must re-boot before it will re-connect?? Must be a 'setting' or something... son Drew will be here next week, perhaps he can figure it out. No MBY callback on the hoses!

News: If you know Betty; you know she reads every last word of a newspaper and today while reading the 'Marathon – Big Pine Press,' a local tabloid, she ran across this ad that we thought a few readers of the *MIMI* Log might find of interest... very few! The tsunami is now estimated at 150,000 with thousands missing and with related disease the toll is expected to go much higher.

LOOKING FOR:

A guy 65-70 – no younger – who is looking for a relationship here in KW with someone like me. I am a Scorpio, attractive but not breath-taking at age 65. Very long hair, educated UC Berkeley in 70's, widow for 20 yrs. Plus. Cancer or Capricorn man would be nice. I dance, cook, swim, love dry humor. I drink & smoke & prefer someone who does. 295-3058 & leave note. No drugs. (Do not call if you voted for Bush.)

Aware of the no-no's in advance, a guy could fake it... at least the Cancer, Capricorn or drugs thing but disguising a 'W' man is virtually impossible!

Stone Crab & Lobster Feast

Grilled steak was planned for tonight but we were invited for Stone Crab & Lobster at Michael & Judy's. They have a friend who gets non-restaurant grade crab and we had a feast. The wind laid and it was a

beautiful evening... except for my rotten cold that keeps hanging on; because of it I had to turn down a invitation to do some sail fishing with Michael and Butch tomorrow. With light wind it will be a great day for fishing.

Thursday, January 5, 2005, Docked Faro Blanco (Bayside) Marina, Marathon, FL
L70's-L80's – Partly Cloudy, Wind E5-10kts, Seas less than 2' Bay Waters 'Light Chop'

Betty & Cecilia play tennis; I'm expecting J.D. to wash but no show?? Nothing from MBY either?? Dana with SALT does the seal kit on the chill water pump and it appears to have fixed the problem because the system is holding pressure without constant adding of water; additional line 'bleeding' will be done while we're back in Texas, as will re-insulation of the manifold and additional insulation wrap on the lines.

I'm reading 'Tales from Margaritaville,' a collection of short stories by Jimmy Buffett. 'Are you ready for Freddie' is about Jimmy's encounter with Frederick Purvis (Freddy & the Fishsticks); most enlightening was Freddy's six lessons about the world according to Freddy:

1. Never forget – they are always the enemy.
2. Just remember, assholes are born that way, and they usually don't change.
3. You do not want to go to jail.
4. When you start to take this job seriously, you're in trouble.
5. It takes no more time to see the good side of life than it takes to see the bad.
6. If you decide to run with the ball, just count on fumbling and getting the shit knocked out of you a lot, but never forget how much fun it is just to be able to run with the ball.

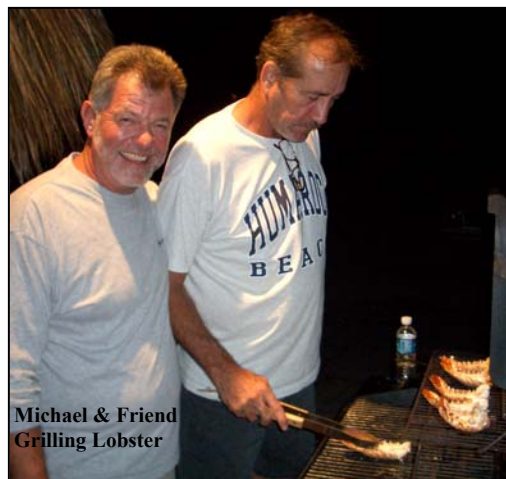
Still no MBY callback so I drive over to investigate... 1-way communication. Liz is defensive then tells me the hoses came in Tuesday... I'm in a poor mood anyway, a cold will do that to you, and I show my extreme displeasure in the lack of communication and scheduling, etc., etc., etc.. The manager intervenes, calms me down, apologizes and pledges to have the hoses replaced tomorrow at 8:00am sharp. Against my emotional signals, I agree... we'll see.

Friday, January 07, 2005, Docked Faro Blanco (Bayside) Marina, Marathon, FL
L70's-L80's – Clear, Wind E5-10kts, Seas less than 2' Bay Waters 'Light Chop'

It rained during the night then cleared for a beautiful day. MBY (Billy) arrives on time but things quickly go downhill; Neil's instructions (he's no longer with MBY) were to replace the transom lift hydraulic fittings and any hoses that would be to short. Billy takes a look and says "no problem" the hoses are plenty long! So he removes the 1st hose, cuts-off the fitting and surprise... fittings don't work... set back! As it turns out MBY had ordered hose and fittings to do a total replacement and the fittings won't work with the existing hose. Let's see, had they done the work as agreed would they have replaced all the hoses because "they were too short?" Another conversation with Sherry at MYB ensued and they are not happy but what's important... I'm really pissed-off! We finally agree to replace the hoses and split the \$165.00 subject to finding Neil to verify the original deal. Oh, oh... another set-back... the new fittings don't work with the hose they ordered... now they're red faced and a little less defensive and more conciliatory.



Cracking Stone Crab



Michael & Friend
Grilling Lobster

Jim Rifkin drops by looking for a fishing partner for the day... perfect! We didn't do great but had a great day fishing. I would have enjoyed the day even if we'd caught nothing. We would have easily gotten our limit had I had less 'down-time' (old friends Dennis Donley and Jon Franz know about that) and Jim had to re-learn me on basic hook setting; as it turns-out we were one shy of our limit. We did a quick wash down of *Riley*; Betty picked me up... I do a quick shower and we go to the Marathon Yacht Club for dinner with Tom & Marie.

It was 'bring and grill your own' night at MYC and there was a big crowd. We met a lot of people and danced a lot. Dave, the 1-man-band provided dance music and entertainment; he was a lot of fun, especially his rendition of Willie and Waylon. Funny thing, everyone there was older than the four of us, or at least looking through my eyes! We closed the place and on the way out got into a contest to see who could get a toy car to go furthest around the bar. I won but thinking back, perhaps I was sandbagged (considering joining the club) or maybe just the soberest?

Drew & Cathy Visit

Saturday, January 08, 2005, Docked Faro Blanco (Bayside) Marina, Marathon, FL
L70's-L80's – Clear, Wind NE5-10kts, Seas less than 2' Bay Waters 'Light Chop'

Don & Mary Condee *Con du it* pull-out at 7:00am this morning, we assume they are returning to their home marina on Marco, Island. Betty is playing tennis this morning. **News:** United States private contributions for Indian Ocean tsunami relief now match those of the U.S. government... \$350,000,000!!! Indonesia added 2,737 people to the list of confirmed dead, raising the number of victims in that country to 104,055 and pushing the total over 150,000. Roughly 3 million to 5 million people are living in refugee camps across the tsunami stricken area in southern Asia.

Judy informs us the pig roast party we missed last night was a blowout with a big crowd and lots of fun; it sounded great but they didn't have 'Willie and Waylon!' We ended up with a bowl of leftover crab salad... good.

Charlie & Cathy are having stone crab tonight on the *Casa Del Mar* and need a Sangria recipe so I Google one... no problem. Son and daughter-in-law, Drew and Cathy arrive around 5:30pm and though tired from an early and long day, they enjoyed two firsts... stone crab and tomato pie. We return to the *MIMI* at 'Marathon Midnight' (9:00pm) and quickly call it a day.

Sunday, January 09, 2005, Docked Faro Blanco (Bayside) Marina, Marathon, FL
L70's-L80's – Clear, Wind NE10-15kts
Seas 2' – 6 Seconds, Bay Waters 'Light Chop' – Gulf Stream 16mi South

Drew & Cathy sleep-in this morning; unquestionably due to the music of small waves lapping at the hull and perhaps because of yesterday's trip and no Zachary (1-year old) to get them up. A lot of fishermen are heading out today with wind forecast for Monday afternoon through Thursday... great!

We do bacon and eggs on the 'Big Easy' griddle for 'brunchwich's' then Cathy & Betty walk to the 7-mile bridge while Drew & I fuss with the computer then drive over. Breezy but warm and sunny, we saw a lot of fish and several Manta Rays ('Devil Fish'). Then we tour local housing in Sombrero and Key Colony Beach, stop for drinks at 'Island Breezes' bar and watched the first quarter of the Colts vs. Broncos NFL play-off game. The Colts were beating-up on the Bronco's as we left. On the way back we took in a local 'art show'... Betty & Cathy insisted... lots of 'stuff' but left empty handed... 'dodged a bullet!' Actually there were a few nice paintings and some really beautiful photographs but most of the booths were full junk.

Back at Faro Blanco we check-out activity at the 'Bubba Hut;' Captain Gerry was cleaning a big catch of Snapper while a flock of Pelican's beg for the waste and daughter Abigail attempts to hook one of the 'prowling' Tarpon that we can see in the clear water. Gerry and his New Jersey guests had great fishing; he gave us a big bag of Snapper fillets saying it had been his best day fishing in a year. We grilled the Snapper for dinner then watched 'The Patriot' (Drew hadn't seen it)... Betty & Cathy disappeared about half way... Marathon midnight!

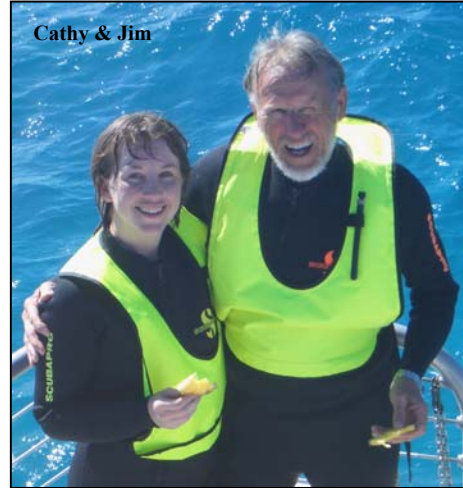
Monday, January 10, 2005, Docked Faro Blanco (Bayside) Marina, Marathon, FL
L70's-L80's – Clear, Wind E15-20kts
Seas 2'- 4' – 7 Seconds, Bay Waters 'Moderate Chop'

Sports: NFL 'Offensive Player of the Year' Peyton Manning passed for 457 yards and 4 passing TD's as the Colt's routed the Bronco's 49-24.

We're going out to Sombrero reef this morning, on Hall's dive boat and of course the wind is increasing; East at 17kts this morning and increasing. Betty is fretting about rough water and Drew is fussing about breakfast... no wonder he's getting chunky cheeks!

At 9:00am we drive to Hall's, they're located in the Faro Blanco office out front on the Overseas Highway, just a block from the *MIMI*. We get signed-up... forms that absolve Hall's from everything that could conceivably happen, including their own negligence and gross negligence; something like a homebuilder sales contract! Next we're fitted for wetsuits and gear.

The dive boat, some call it a 'pig,' is an heavy old WWII Navy boat that takes waves well... Betty isn't impressed but we'll see. It's four of us, one other diver – Russell from New York, and Chris the dive boat captain. Chris is a wealth of information, most of which I can't remember. He was on a boat in Baltimore when I was there on *MIMI* during hurricane Isabelle. One of his trivia items was about Stanley Switlik who invented the inflatable life raft... kewl... and contributed land for a Marathon school.



The reef at Sombrero Key Light is ocean side and we're bayside so the trip takes about 30-40 minutes; the reef is about 4 miles off-shore and marks the outside of Hawk's channel that runs inside the reef from Miami to Key West and provides sea wave protection for boating. The reef water is beautifully clear and ocean waves this morning are running 3 feet plus. The reef is a protected marine sanctuary and marine life isn't afraid of swimmers. The sanctuary perimeter is depicted on marine charts and marked off with yellow buoys. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ("NOAA") placed and maintain mooring balls (anchored to the bottom in heavy concrete) for easy tie-up's to eliminate anchoring and resulting damage to the coral reef.



Cathy is suited up and first in the water... no fear here! Divers Russell and Drew follow, then me... Betty decides to 'wait awhile!' It's a good thing Russell was along for if he weren't, Drew would have been limited to snorkeling without a dive buddy.

There were gad jillions of fish of every color, including several 'platoon's' of Barracuda's swimming in formation just a few feet from us. Drew saw one a five footer but most were around two. Cathy and I were out first and the overall 1st dive lasted about an hour. When we got out, Captain Chris had fresh sliced pineapple to clear the salt from our mouth... nice touch. I became a little light-headed and thought it was from an empty stomach but later decided it must be from combining blood pressure medication with cold medicine?

We moved to another spot nearby and Betty actually got in... she was surprised at how warm the short wet suit was but as usual she had too much buoyancy. We decided a five-pound weight belt would have been perfect.

We're back at Faro Blanco by around 1:00pm and the next dive group was waiting on the dock. After shower's on *MIMI* we do a late lunch at 'Key's Fisheries;' Drew has a shrimp burger, Cathy crab cake, Betty cracked conch and a grilled dolphin (the fish) sandwich for me.

During cocktail hour, Butch describes his favorite Marathon eating places... making Drew so hungry that what otherwise would have been a one-meal day ends up being two with great pizza from 'Upper Crust Pizza' brought back to *MIMI* and devoured during Fox News... we're all down before 'Greta.'

Tuesday, January 11, 2005, Docked Faro Blanco (Bayside) Marina, Marathon, FL
L70's-L80's – Clear, Wind E15 Gusty
Seas outside the reef 4' - 6', inside the reef 2-3', Bay Waters 'Choppy'

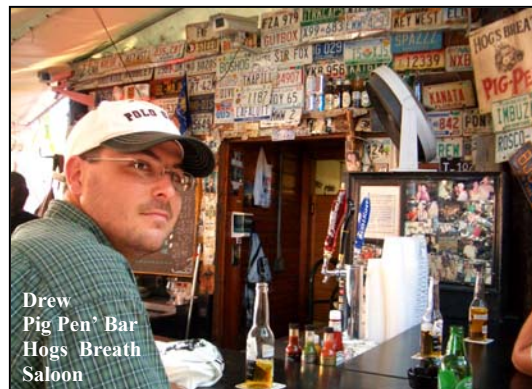
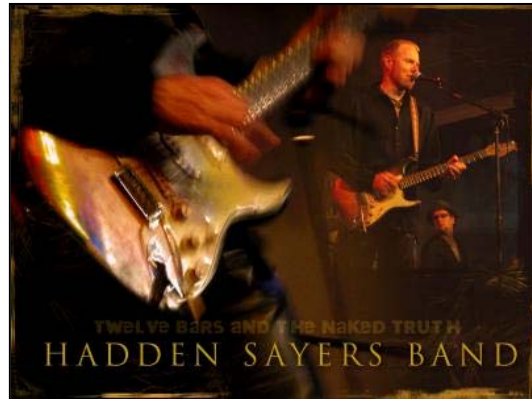
News: CBS News released their investigation report yesterday on 'Guard Gate' the bogus 60 Minutes II Dan Rather 'expose' article on George W. Bush's National Guard service that aired in the final weeks of the 2004 presidential campaign. CBS dismissed (fired) four employees, including Mary Mapes the program editor, acknowledged mistakes were made but that no political bias was discovered. Of course not... no one would expect that there would be email or such found saying, "let's be biased" or "we've got to find something on 'W' so we can win the presidency for Kerry!" Bias is evident when the answer to the question "in a similar situation affecting Kerry, would CBS have aired it?" the answer would be unequivocally "NO."

This morning Captain Chris Caldwell brought us a list of GPS dive and snorkel locations; he said he would bring it yesterday but we were impressed he remembered. I'll go back later for 'elaboration.'

We drive to Key West and meet up with Hadden (Had Sayers) a musician, married to Shawn, the daughter of our friends Barbara & Jim Chandler. Had is doing a gig at Jimmy Buffett's 'Margaritaville' and preparing a spot for an NFL Super bowl TV commercial. He's an Aggie and loves Jerry Jeff Walker but people say his sound is a lot like Cat Stevens. Had takes us to 'Rosie's Cantina' for a Cuban lunch; he also recommends 'B's' (Cuban near the airport) and 'Blue Moon' for dinner. Hadden Sayers's website is

www.haddensayers.com.
Had's most recent album '12 Bars & the Naked Truth.'

Drew and I have a couple of beers in the 'Pig Pen' bar at the 'Hog's Breath Saloon' and Drew gets a 'Hogs Breath is better than no breath at all' tee shirt. Jim gets a few locally rolled smokes at 'Key West Cigar' then we work on our tans (on the street curb) waiting on Cathy & Betty in the shops. We finish off before sunset at the 'Sunset Bar' and head back to Marathon.



Wednesday, January 12, 2005, Docked Faro Blanco (Bayside) Marina, Marathon, FL

M70's-L80's – Clear, Wind E10 increasing to 15-20kts

Seas 4'- 6', higher in the Gulf Stream (14 mi S of Marathon), inside the reef 3', Bay Waters 'Choppy'

Billy with MBY shows up at 9:30am for his 8:00am appointment to do the hydraulic hoses... Keys time I guess! It took an hour to remove the hoses and 4 hours to do the fittings back at the shop... they confessed they had another shop with the right dies do the job. Billy came back with reinforcements and put the new cables on. Fearing fiasco I had called Doug Nichols, builder of the lift system, for instructions and he advised on filling the hoses with fluid before connecting which is a little challenging due to the small diameter hose. It only required two trips back to the shop to figure out that they could do it easily with a simple hand vacuum pump; even so it took almost an hour to fill the eight hoses. By 4:30pm, back together and working fine... such a big hassle for such a simple job; it's a boat! Tomorrow we 'settle-up' on the charges... could be interesting!

While Billy was taking 3 ½ hours (lunch included) to put 16 new fittings on 8 hoses, John Cotti with Key West Engine ("KWE") came by to replace an o-ring in the port engine raw water pipe to the intake manifold that was leaking after he fixed the overheating problem last month. While here he found the source of a very small coolant leak on the same engine... the fresh water pump; it's still under warranty and a replacement will be installed while we're gone. I'm impressed with John and KWE... professional.

Oyster Party

In spite of sprinkles and threatening rain, preparations are already underway for tonight's Oyster dock party; Bob Grote brought 2 bushels back with him from Virginia yesterday. Bob & Ben steamed them on the grill and Gerry pitched in shucking, for those who like them raw. They were good and salty, similar to Apalachicola oysters but my preference goes 1st to Apalachicola and 2nd to Texas oysters, but these from Virginia were excellent steamed or raw... outstanding!



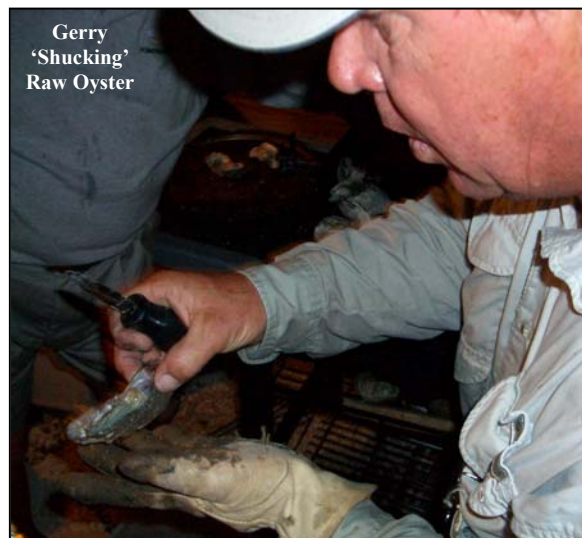
Thursday, January 13, 2005, Docked Faro Blanco (Bayside) Marina, Marathon, FL

**L70's-L80's – Clear, Wind SE15-20kts & Gusty
Seas 5'- 8', inside the reef 3', Bay Waters 'Rough'**

Drew & Cathy depart for the NAHB convention in Orlando this morning; its been a wonderful having them here this week; the only regret is the wind combined with boat service to deny us the opportunity to go out and cruise the area some. Betty does tennis at 8:30am and Drew & Cathy are away by 9:00am. We return to Texas tomorrow so today is a 'get ready' day for us.

Laura & ex-husband's brother Tony arrive at 9:00am to do the boat wash. We do a good orientation and I think they have the picture.

Upon arriving in November, I considered Laura but saw her washing a neighboring boat and didn't care for the job but later discovered it was just a 'salt-wash' so I had misjudged... I hope. Jay Lutskus will wax in late February or early March and hopefully Laura can work with him and pick-up some pointers. I want her to learn how Jay cleans the teak.



I went to MBY and settled on the charges for the hydraulic work... confident I got screwed, I'll be writing the owner later; it won't do much good, I'm sure, but it will make me feel better... besides a number of friends in Marathon will read the *MIMI* log and at least be forewarned. I settled with SALT too and because of their failure to promptly order parts, was overcharged some as well... they have some professionals working there and I'm confident on getting it back in due course.

During cocktails, Gerry tells how his wife finally got him to remove an old refrigerator from the garage; he loaded it in the pick-up and hauled it to Faro Blanco (it will be great at the 'Bubba Hut'). Gerry always drives through the Faro Blanco office covered driveway instead of around it and ... you guessed it... the fridge took a tumble! It did no damage to the canopy and not to the fridge but the bottom 'kicked-up' and broke out the rear window of the pick-up! Gerry was red-faced... worse though, the new window will dig into his 'walkin-around' money!

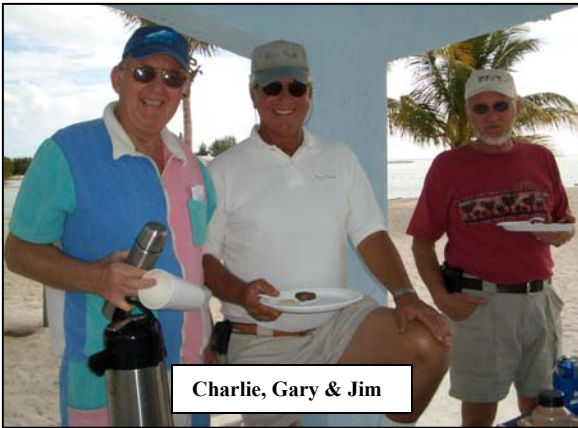
Jay Lutskus called from a bar in Fort Lauderdale; he is there studying for his captain's license and taking the test tomorrow. There was a guy there who owns a Neptunus 56 and they got to talking then Ray Thompson joined them and they decided to call us... Ray, formerly sales manager for Neptunus, is sales manager for Icon Yachts and they put 2 + 2 together and we were common ground. We're looking forward to seeing Ray and Icon Yachts at the Miami International Boat Show in Miami next month.

Butch & Cathy join us for dinner at 'Keys Fisheries.'

Friday, January 14, 2005, Docked Faro Blanco (Bayside) Marina, Marathon, FL
Marathon L70's-L80's – Light rain early, Wind SE15-20kts & Gusty
Temple U30's-L50's – Partly cloudy, Wind SE5

Our flight back to Texas was uneventful except we later learned that our 3:45pm arrival in Killeen, TX was the last flight before an Army transport plane with wheel problems closed the runway for the rest of the day! A little later and we would have had to drive from Dallas in a rent a car... extending our trip by about 3 hours

Photo Gallery



Charlie, Gary & Jim



Michael
Faro Blanco
Bopping!



Michael & Judy



Betty & Cathy



Cathy & Betty – Sunset Bar, Key West



Claire & Marie



Cecilia - 'Precious' Cuzzie



Cathy



Gerry Shucks
Raw Oysters
for Sue



PHI PHI Island – Before Tsunami



PHI PHI Island – After Tsunami



Tourist Body

