



## Tom's Message Board



### Boat For Sale

I've heard it said the happiest days in a boat owner's life are the day he buys it and the day he sells it. However, for Sue and me, our happiest days were all the ones in between. Yup...the boat I've written about in this column before is up for sale. Now that we're living on the lake we've decided to downsize to a "day" boat!

We purchased our cruiser because we wanted to enjoy a summer afternoon, an overnight, or a weekend ON the water. Anchored in a sheltered cove to swim, read, relax, dine to stunning sunsets, star gaze, sleep with the sound of lapping water, and wake up to a cup of coffee on a sunny morning surrounded by nature is true heaven on earth. Twice, our thoughtful staff gave us gift certificates to fabulous lakeside restaurants in the Islands. We'd tie off at their dock, enjoy cocktails and dinner, and when finished, simply pull away to anchor for the night.

For four years we kept our boat at Marble Island Marina, establishing many friendships there, though we're not dock boaters. Our time has been used sightseeing and exploring the lake, or rafting up with friends with anywhere from two to five boats. Our traditional excursions were July 3rd to Burlington to watch the fireworks directly overhead for the best view imaginable, and Labor Day weekend; knowing that the end was coming. But mostly it was the spontaneous, weather-induced gatherings that were the most memorable. Like the time we ended up connecting off North Beach with 2 of my sisters and brothers-in-law in their boats, my parents, and our good friends Paul and Janet in their boat. Before long, a cocktail party ensued (big surprise!) followed by an improvised pot-luck dinner across all four boats to a spectacular sunset. It's still fondly talked about. And then there was the overnight we and 2 other couples (who shall remain nameless... if not shameless) and their boats rafted together off Niquette Bay Beach. That hot July night found us cooling off with a refreshing skinny dip in the glow of the moon. Kinda brings one back to more youthful days. And then there's the infamous Keeler's Bay incident (with the same nameless/shameless friends) when a ski boat kept buzzing just a bit too close with a hot dogging barefoot skier. It was pretty cool to watch... for a bit. Deciding to stage our own show, upon one pass they got an eyeful of "old-guy moons" from the stern of our boats! That was the last we saw of them and our evening was tranquil once again. And there've been less than Shangri La moments as well. Lake Champlain is famous for its dramatically changing conditions that have made for a few white-knuckle excursions. Like one post-July 3rd fireworks outing waking up at anchor in Burlington to nasty 25 mph winds and 4-5 foot seas. One boat in our group lost engine power and it got a bit hairy, but it all turned out ok. There were other incidents for sure; each one earning renewed respect for the lake and teaching new levels of seamanship skills and nerve.

So, putting our "DÉJÀ VU" (named after the restaurant where Sue and I first met) up for sale is fraught with mixed emotions. If you want to take a look at our 1996 Maxum SCR2700 cruiser go to [www.sabamarinevt.com](http://www.sabamarinevt.com). She will be treasured and missed.

Anchors away,

Tom Brassard, President