

It's The Journey That Counts

Welcome to this issue about celebration and discovery. First, we invite you to celebrate the 80th birthday of the founder of BoatU.S., Richard Schwartz, whose vision, entrepreneurial spirit, tenacity, and sense of humor have inspired many of us who work for him on behalf of the nation's boat owners. He helped craft the landmark Boat Safety Act of 1971, and ever since, with grace, grit, and affection has fought relentlessly for the rights of boat owners for over 40 years. For me, it's been an incredible 20-year journey, and I thank you for supporting the only association that works tirelessly for the recreational boaters of America.

Richard found his passion 43 years ago when he began BoatU.S. In this issue of *BoatU.S. Magazine*, even if you've already found your boating passion, in the midst of this busy winter we'd like to inspire you to renew your sense of adventure and charter a boat in a destination you've always dreamed about.

I'm rejuvenated by my memories of exploring Key West's mangrove islands by kayak from our chartered sailboat. I smile remembering the boating trips we've taken to the exquisite waters and warm breezes of the British Virgin Islands, and especially swimming from our charter boat to the surreal rock formations of The Baths of Virgin Gorda. I dream about the year we needed to get far away and spent two weeks exploring the crystal-clear waters of the Greek Islands. Maybe one day I'll tell you more about that trip, where every day started with a shot of Ouzo, prescribed by Denny The Greek, our personal tour guide and husband of one of my best friends. But you don't need Ouzo, or a local, to ensure a memorable trip. All you need is a boat and a little curiosity.

Chartering a boat is so easy and one of the best vacation values you'll ever find — often cheaper than staying in hotels and eating out every night. Check out the article on page 28 for inspiration on four easy-to-reach world-class destinations, as well as insider tips on the best itineraries, and coolest things to do while you're there. BoatU.S. even offers members a special discount off many charters, making this the best vacation deal around.

This December my husband and I are flying from the East Coast to Santa Cruz, California, for my nephew's wedding. If the weather cooperates, we'll spend a day or two cruising the coast while we're out there. We've learned how rejuvenating it is to explore a new place from the deck of a boat. This winter, consider setting out on your own journey of discovery by chartering a boat. If you're like I am, it will make you feel young again.

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Nancy
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