

Subject/Area: Ft. Lauderdale in Florida

In Ft. Lauderdale, we once more appreciated the quality of the service of the West Marine store on Federal Highway at State Road 84. Chuck, a manager, helped us later to get parts in the Turks and Caicos under the West Marine warranty. He really stands behind his products and epitomized West Marine's dedication to customer satisfaction.

Another super nice group of people is the Belgium Club of Florida. Believe it or not, about 3,000 Belgians live in South Florida. They organize picnics and activities that will please French or Dutch speaking cruisers. When Belgians get-together, especially on July 21st, there's good beer and good food for all! We visited SSCA Home Base a couple of times to exchange greetings and information. All of us cruisers certainly appreciate the efforts of Home Base, which allows us to enjoy being out here. This year we hauled at Summerfield Boat Works on the New River. Last year we hauled at Playboy. Both yards welcome do-it-yourselfers with the stipulation that all bottom paint and some or all materials be purchased at the yard at yard prices. Some prices were reasonable but paints were list price. This is pretty much standard policy at any Ft. Lauderdale yard allowing do-it-yourself work. Environmental regulations are stricter each year.

Ft. Lauderdale is a great place to work on the boat, but you need car to take advantage of all that's available. We can recommend some people who were nice, and gave us good service. Bill Owra at Everfair-- alternative energy, all electrical systems & more 305 968-7358. Tim Switzer, East Coast Battery -- batteries and alternators 305 522-2403. Craig Clark, Brown's 3rd Lung-- dive compressor 305 462-5570. Charlie McDonald-- welding 305 728-9542. Barry Heurtson-- hydraulics 305 760-7683. Clau's Marine-- Volvo repairs 305 566-4950. Tibby Machine Shop 305 764-7364.

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Luc & Jackie on s/v Sloepmouche