

When we started our search for a pocket cruiser, we had some specific requirements for our cruising needs but did not really believe that we would find any **one boat** that would meet them:

1. Must be able to cruise in water less than a foot deep to allow us to explore shallow creeks and small rivers in search of wildlife images and shallow anchorages.
2. Must be TRAILERABLE and towable by a V8 powered SUV to allow us to explore waters from our native Tennessee River to Lake Powell and even Alaska.
3. Must be usable year round in any weather conditions short of storms. We spent 68 days on our CD 22 this year and had the rivers to ourselves much of the time between November and May.
4. Must be very fuel efficient and be 4 stroke outboard powered.
5. Must be a liveaboard boat; with our V Berth, Porta Potti, camperback, on board water and Wallas heater / cooker this requirement is easily met.
6. Must be seaworthy, simple, rugged, maintainable and extremely reliable: This C Dory personified.
7. Must have excellent resale value.

Without the internet, we would have never discovered the C Dory. I googled my primary requirements and the C Dory popped up immediately. One look at the salty CD 22 cruiser with its pilothouse and layout and we were hooked. We located the C Brats forum site and found an incredible amount of information and more importantly a fantastic group of folks all passionate about their C Dories.

First Night on our C Dory

We drove several hundred miles to purchase our CD in Crystal River, Florida and were very excited about our new baby. Weary from the excitement and driving, we decided to spend our first night in a Walmart parking lot in Mariiana, Florida instead of trying to make it home. We pulled in between a big rig and a Marathon diesel pusher, climbed in and covered the windows for a nights' sleep. Reminiscent of Gladys Cravitz, the nosy neighbor on "Bewitched", the lady in the Marathon stared incredulously as we dimmed the lights and she ran to the back of their luxury motorhome to summon her spouse; I guess she had never seen a boaterhome.

Second Night

We spent our second night on the hook in a creek on Lake Guntersville on the Tennessee River in north Alabama. We set the anchor, had a sundowner and the first mate made a great dinner on the Wallas. As we were accustomed to the noise and clamor of typical RV campgrounds for our outdoor adventures, the dead quiet of our secluded spot was totally amazing to us. We slept well and were awakened by a beaver slapping the water with his tail. Breakfast never tasted so good and we realized that we had been missing one of the greatest outdoor experiences of all: gunkholing and cruising. The C Dory has changed our lives forever. We spend every moment that we can get away aboard C Eagle and want to do the Great Loop after retirement.

Richard and Cheryle Porter
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CD 22 cruiser