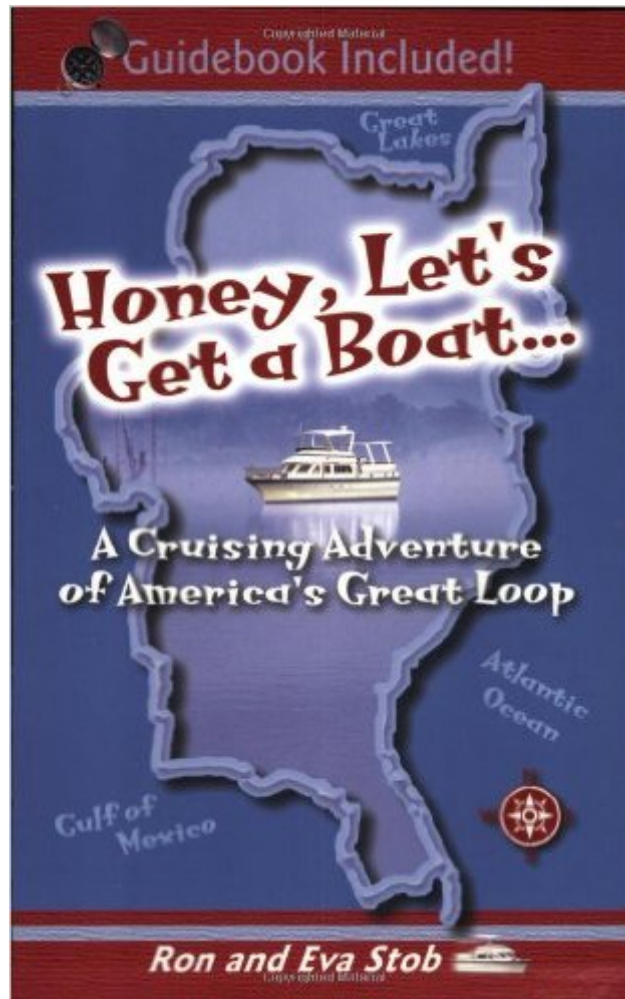


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Honey, Let's Get A Boat... A Cruising Adventure Of America's Great Loop



Synopsis

This is the story of a couple's travels on a forty-foot trawler cruising 6300 miles and 145 locks around the eastern part of North America known as America's Great Loop or the Great Circle Cruise. Their nautical ineptitude is evident from the beginning, but pulling from their personal and collective strengths, the authors overcome doubt, a lack of experience, and real and imagined horrors. The odyssey is told the way life hands out its adventures -- sometimes humorously, sometimes tragically, but always memorably. The writing is light and appealing, but there is a serious strain running through the book for those who relish history and descriptions of the landscape. Astute and attentive to detail, they chronicled events and kept an account of expenses, equipment and charting. As a result, the appendix/guidebook is worth the price of the book for anyone interested in planning their cruise. Topics include necessary charts and guidebooks, information on locks, setting an itinerary, resource addresses and websites, details on equipment and the best place to be educated about boating. The book has full-color inserts with black and white photographs interspersed throughout.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Honey, Let's Get a Boat" by Ron and Eva Stob is a must read for not only boating enthusiasts but all those who ever imagined themselves pulling up stakes and setting out on a year or more adventure of travel. Ron and Eva Stob do a wonderful job of recounting their year-long journey on a forty-foot trawler, which began in Florida and circled up along the intercoastal waterway to New York

and then up the Hudson River to Lakes George and Champlain to the Saint Lawrence River in Canada and on to the Great Lakes and Chicago and then down the river systems to the Gulf of Mexico and back to Florida. This route, known as "America's Great Loop," took them through waterways, locks, scenery, history, and cultures as varied as one could find anywhere. Even though the book is written in the first person by Ron as the narrator, I can assure you, on the basis of having had the good fortune of meeting this delightful couple, Eva had a big part in helping relate the experiences encountered throughout their year of traveling these waterways. The book is a great read from start to finish and includes an appendix, which is a guidebook to anyone contemplating a similar venture. From the interesting and humorous aspects of just how this couple took the leap of quitting their jobs and finding and purchasing the trawler to their final encounter with the tropical storm Gordon, (becoming Hurricane Gordon,) as they returned to Florida after their year of cruising, the reader will be fascinated by vivid descriptions of places and cultures, as well as the difficulties and near disasters. Ron's "tongue in cheek" satire and humor and his honest self-criticism enhance the imagery of the book and bring alive the characters and places.

This is a great book for (a) introducing the concept of the Great Loop tour to those unfamiliar with it in detail and (b) giving one couple's story with some cute stuff, mostly at the beginning about how they talked themselves into trying it. That was fine. The opening parts of the actual trip where they encountered huge and unexpected mechanical issues that cost them time and money were also a great cautionary tale for my wife and I who, if we do this someday as we plan, will NEVER do it in a used boat without much more "due diligence" about the boat AND the broker than these folks employed. Now about those attitudes. Another reviewer mentioned some of the stuff about race relations and the South which I found to be annoying as well and my wife, a native Southerner, found offensively stereotypical, but let's be clear. It isn't that they're prejudiced against minorities--no, they're presuming racism amongst southern whites and that's really crude and hardly as enlightened as these clearly "progressive" Californians probably think themselves to be. Add to that a bunch of opinions about the values of various religious groups and denominations, a few environmental screeds that show a level of political correct naivete, and you get storytellers who lose track of their story to lecture to you or make themselves feel morally superior, which isn't fun to read for long. Some of their historical "guidebook" stories about various places are endless and detailed without being interesting or unique--it is as if they said "Hey, we have to put some of this stuff in if we want to go for that award for guidebooks to goose sales and notoriety, so let's do it" without much visible passion about any of the subjects covered. So...

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