

Do you liveaboard? Do you want to?

∞ ODYSSEA ∞

Her history and the answers to frequently asked questions about her:

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Why is she for sale? — The time to care for aging parents is upon us, never something one can plan the timing of, and we need to have some place to live that is more easily accessible to aging sailors no longer as steady on their sea legs. We've had over four delightful years aboard and expect that we will again have a liveaboard for our later years.

What's her price? — Talk with Jay Benford if you're serious about living aboard and are committed to being a steward of a classic wooden yacht.

Particulars:

Length Overall	75'
Length On Waterline	73'
Beam (Maximum width)	19'
Draft (Depth in water)	3'-4"
Air Draft (Bridge clearance)	22'
Headroom, upper cabin	6'-2"
Headroom, lower cabin	6'-6"
Ballast	None
Freeboard:	
Forward	7'-6"
Least	2'-2"
Aft	2'-6"
Displacement, lbs. (est'd.)	80-100,000
Pounds Per Inch Immersion	5,000 est'd.
Water Tankage, Gals.	200
Fuel Tankage, Gals.	650

Air-conditioning — How do you keep your cool in the summer? There are separate air-conditioning systems for the upper and lower houses. The upper is an air-to-air unit and the lower has two water-to-air units. Most of the time, though, we're very comfortable by just opening the windows and letting the fresh air come through, sometimes aided by a fan.

Age — When was she built? From what we've learned so far, we believe her keel was laid (that is, construction was started) in 1915 and she was completed (first documented as a yacht) in 1926.

Builder — Who built her and where? She was built by and designed by Wildey in Seaford, Virginia. She

was also owned by the Wildeys as their home for the next 40 years.

Cooking — How do you cook? We have a conventional electric range with oven, an electric microwave and a gas fired barbecue grill. Just like a house ashore...

Condition — Is she structurally sound? We looked for years to find a boat large enough to be a liveaboard home and also to be in good structural condition. This is the only one we saw that we regarded as being in good enough condition to be worth buying. Her primary structure is all pitch pine, (very hard and tough longleaf yellow pine) and anyone who's worked with old heart pine flooring knows how hard and tough this material is.

Generator — Do you have your own generator? Yes, there is an Onan 12 kilowatt diesel generator which we use when cruising or when a storm knocks out the shore power lines.

Heating — How do you keep warm in the winter? We have an oil-fired furnace, replaced in 1997, just like in a house ashore. It burns diesel oil and works the two zone (separate upper and lower decks) hot water baseboard heating circuits. It also produces domestic hot water.

Laundry — What do you do about washing clothes? We have a full size washer and dryer aboard, powered by either shore power or our generator.

Maintenance — What do you do about painting? We have continued the prior owner's use of Benjamin Moore oil based house paints for the exterior and interior. Obviously, this is an on going process, but the underlying structure's health makes it straightforward.

Name — What's the background to her name? She was originally named *Floralin*, presumably after members of the Wildey family. She was renamed *Xanadu* in about 1973. We renamed her *Odyssea* after the "Adventures In Odyssey" stories that are favorites of our children, modifying the spelling to reflect the nautical character of our adventures in

Odyssea.

Power — What's she powered with? Her main engine is a GM 6-71 diesel of 426 cubic inches, rated at about 225 horsepower. We only use about 50-80 horsepower to cruise her at 6-8 knots.

Seaworthiness — What kind of weather can she handle? In our delivery trip here from Long Island we ran into 5' seas, pretty much head-on. This slowed us down and we threw a lot of spray. For comfort, we opted to take the inside route a while. Later, we got similar seas on the stern quarter which produced a lot less roll than we expected. Overall, our conclusion from this (and 4 summers of cruising her) is that she's fine as a coastal cruiser, and we might even venture across to the Bahamas or across the Great Lakes when we have a chance to pick our weather. She's very stable and comfortable to cruise and live aboard.

Sleep — How many does she sleep? Four, as we have her set up right now. There are three staterooms (bedrooms), plus one which is used presently for a playroom but could be the master or guest stateroom

if desired. *Odyssea* is unusual for a vessel of this size in not having any quarters for paid crew. She's apparently always been a family liveaboard, operated and managed by her owners. Thus, she has large and very usable living spaces, not being cut up into lots of small cabins.

Toilets — What do you do about sewage? Under U. S. Coast Guard regulations, all vessels are required to have either onboard treatment devices and/or holding tanks. We have a holding tank type legal "head" (non-discharge marine toilet) aboard.

Type — What type of boat is she? When built she was called a "houseboat". Unfortunately, the connotations associated with a houseboat today are of a shoddily built, box-shaped houses on modified barge shaped hulls. The larger motor yachts built today with the same configuration that *Odyssea* has are called "cockpit motor yachts" and perhaps we could call her that. Or, better yet, maybe we should just say she's a "classic houseboat"....

