Different Kinds of Hulls Behave in Different Ways

Generally, power boat hulls don’t have deep keels, so they hang to the wind. Sail boats generally hang to a combination of wind and tide, and even then, different kinds of keels have different swinging characteristics. Take a little time to observe your neighbors in the anchorage, and don’t be afraid to ask how much rode they have out or even where their anchors are. The point is to be and feel secure.
Minimum Approach Depth: 7 ft.
Depth In Anchorage: 6-10 ft.

Lat 26°37.7'N / Lon 82°03.9'
Use Chart 11426 for Navigation

Beginning off Jug Creek Shoal at the north end of Pine Island, then curving from the west around the shoals off Bokeelia, a well marked, county-maintained channel leads south-southeasterly toward Matlacha. The channel is long and narrow, and must be shared with shrimpers. It passes beneath a bascule bridge and power line. The bridge answers to horn signals and opens from 8 AM to 7 PM seven days a week (7 AM Fri. - Sun.). The power line has a vertical clearance of 75 feet.

The anchorage lies to port, just southeast of the bridge. Holding and protection are good in virtually all weathers. Soundings show plenty of water in the channel and at least 6 feet in the anchorage.

Keep 100 feet southeast of the building shown in the photograph. Best water extends to the southeast adjacent to the channel, and because of decreasing depths, it’s best to stay well clear of other buildings on the north shore or the mangroves to the east.

The village of Matlacha offers ice, showers, heads, two picnic spots, trash pickup, restaurants and an art gallery. The beauty salon even has its own dinghy dock. Please limit your stay to the capacity of your holding tank, since there is no pump-out facility available.

South of the anchorage area, waters shoal quickly toward the “Miserable Mile”. From time to time, various authorities and private groups discuss improving and correctly marking the channel to the south, but at publication, it is not recommended to leave or enter the anchorage by this route.
#1 Edgewater Lake
Minimum Approach Depth: 4 ft.
Depth In Anchorage: 6 ft.
Lat 26°57.0’N / Lon 82°07.5’W at Fl G #1

#2 Charlotte Harbor
Minimum Approach Depth: 5 ft.
Depth In Anchorage: 5-7 ft.
Lat 26°56.5’N / Lon 82°05.1’W
Due north 650 yards from Green #3 in the Peace River you'll find Flashing Green #1, leading mark for a channel running into Edgewater Lake, a deep pool surrounded by homes.

The channel promises depths of 6-7 feet but a bar at the entrance reduces the approach depth to 5 feet at normal mean low and 4 1/2 at mean low low. When the wind is blowing from the north deeper draft vessels should approach the entrance on a rising tide.

No shoreside access or facilities, but great cover if you can get in. We include it here because it is the only fully protected area in this stretch of Charlotte Harbor. It is a "best behavior" short time anchorage.

Northeast of Green 3, in anchorage #2, you will find reasonable shelter in breezes from northeast to northwest where 5 to 7 feet of water trends off toward Live Oak Point. You can dinghy from here to the east side of the point for shore access. (See "*Note*" p. 56)

The third anchorage is just past marker 4 near Gilchrist Park in Punta Gorda. This location will give you shelter from breezes out of the south and a bit from southeast, but not much else. Facilities are closer, however.

Dinghy ashore to a small beach near the park gazebo, or pass under the bridge and use the sandy beach at the corner of the municipal auditorium (best to leave your dinghy attended). From either place it is a short walk to grocery stores and other ser-

(continued on next page)
### #3 Punta Gorda
**Minimum Approach Depth:** 5 ft.
**Depth In Anchorage:** 5-7 ft.

Lat 26°56.3'N / Lon 82°03.7'W

---

### #4 Live Oak Point
**Minimum Approach Depth:** 6 ft.
**Depth In Anchorage:** 6-8 ft.

Lat 26°57.8'N / Lon 82°03.3'W

---

Continued from previous page:

vices. About a mile southwest of the anchorage is a full service marina with pump-out, fuel and water, and plenty of boutiques and restaurants immediately at hand.

The City of Punta Gorda has officially changed the limit on anchoring in its waters (from the center line of the river to the southern shoreline) from 24 hours to five days in a 30-day period. They also revised the definition of a live-aboard vessel, easing regulation of cruising boaters. The city planners are looking into providing a dinghy dock and dumpsters for trash disposal.

The fourth alternative is to pass under the fixed US 41 bridges, and the power lines just beyond, and head north into a large pool of 6-8 feet of water bearing about 210 degrees from the northernmost power tower and fairly close in to shore. Good cover from breezes from the northwest through northeast. Controlling depth through the bridges is 6 feet and the vertical clearance of the bridge is 45 feet. The power cable is higher.

A raw bar, boat rental shop and motel with restaurant line the eastern shore. If you use the restaurant(s), you may bring your dinghy in to the dock (3' alongside).

*Note: If you do not plan to use the facilities, bring your dinghy up on the narrow sandy beach south of the raw bar - that's public land.*
The Indispensable Dink

The well-dressed dinghy is a joy forever. Sooner or later, the Marine Patrol will ultimately get around to seeing to it that you have the registration with you, along with a cushion or vest for every person aboard, a whistle or horn, plus a flashlight or lantern at night. Most folks we know keep a bailing or sponge tucked away, with oars or a paddle in case the motor fails. If you don’t think oars or paddle are really needed, go out and try to paddle with your hands against a three knot tidal current. Play it safe: bring all hands safely home.
The Bahamian Moor

When cruising or anchoring, you'll find plenty of uses for this simple method of keeping your boat from swinging around in a large circle. The Bahamian moor keeps your boat in one place and still permits it to swing to wind or tide.

1. Put down your first anchor where you'd ordinarily set it to anchor in the place of your choice.

2. Fall back on the wind or tide twice the distance you need: set the anchor. Put down #2 anchor.

3. Letting the line on #2 run free, winch or pull up between the two anchors and draw both lines firm. Be careful not to foul the prop.

4. Bring the #2 anchor line up to a stern cleat and go ahead on that anchor to set it.

5. Adjust the scope just enough for your keel to clear the slack anchor line when you pivot.

拔摩里亚锚

When cruising or anchoring, you'll find plenty of uses for this simple method of keeping your boat from swinging around in a large circle. The Bahamian moor keeps your boat in one place and still permits it to swing to wind or tide.

1. Put down your first anchor where you'd ordinarily set it to anchor in the place of your choice.

2. Fall back on the wind or tide twice the distance you need: set the anchor. Put down #2 anchor.

3. Letting the line on #2 run free, winch or pull up between the two anchors and draw both lines firm. Be careful not to foul the prop.

4. Bring the #2 anchor line up to a stern cleat and go ahead on that anchor to set it.

5. Adjust the scope just enough for your keel to clear the slack anchor line when you pivot.
Section III

This section covers the area from Boca Grande to Big Pass in Sarasota. Here the Intracoastal changes considerably. No more the wide expanses of estuaries and unspoiled shores. Now instead, man’s hand is more visible. Eight bridges line this course. Not many, by East Coast standards, but an annoyance to boaters used to placid voyaging.

Depths are more critical, too: the dredged Intracoastal leads between shoals that are often heart-stopping yards off either beam. But not to worry. There are still safe havens and quiet gunkholes.

If you decide to go outside, be aware that Sarasota’s Big Pass as well as Stump Pass and New Pass, both recently dredged as we go to press, are all subject to shoaling. You may have to make big jumps from Boca Grande Pass to Venice Inlet and from there to Longboat Pass, especially in a deep-draft vessel.

Note: For pass-to-pass distances on the outside see page 74.
Off mile 28.4 on the ICW: 4.3 statute miles from Pelican Bay, 8.3 statute miles to Cape Haze.

Just north of marker 2 on the Intra-coastal Waterway, turn west toward Gasparilla Island. Minimum depths are 7 feet, but there are a few unmarked shoals to avoid.

Abeam of marker 7, cut north through a narrow passage that leads into the wide basin that is part of Grande Bayou. In winter, a scaplane uses docks on the west side of the anchorage to pick up passengers. Keep a sharp eye out.

Minimum depths in the narrow passage are 5 feet, much deeper in the basin anchorage. Drop the hook near the center of the pond, back down toward the eastern shore and set a stern anchor as close to shore as possible. Tying directly to the mangroves is strongly discouraged, as damaging them is prohibited by law.

Shore access protocol in Grande Bayou has changed dramatically in recent years. Of the 10 slips on the west side, the five southernmost are reserved for the Pink Elephant restaurant – the northern five are reserved for visiting vessels.

From April through May, during the tarpon fishing season, all of the slips are reserved for fishing guide boats to load and unload passengers. If you bring a vessel or dinghy in for more than a few minutes you’ll probably get a ticket.

The water in the northernmost slip,
however, is often too little for anything but dinghies, so it may still be possible to come in there. Further north, the public land at the foot of 7th Street, near the low bridge, is being cleared of "exotic" vegetation and will again be available for dinghy landing.

Boca Grande continues to attract the rich and famous, as it did when it was founded nearly 100 years ago. The village, about three blocks from the bayou, is graced with banyan trees shading beautifully preserved homes. A walking tour is a must. Groceries are available and many alluring shops are worth a visit.

An old rail line running the length of the island has been paved over and turned into a bike path. Bikes are for rent everywhere.

At the far southern end of the island is the Boca Grande Lighthouse, placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. The beaches around the lighthouse, which look across Boca Grande Pass, are stunning.

The pass itself offers the finest tarpon fishing in the world; tournaments are held almost constantly during the season from late spring to early summer.

Two marinas lie southwest of marker 7. Fuel and other services (including pump-out) and a restaurant can be found there.

*See "photomap" on Page 110 for additional information.*