

News from Cypress Cove

By Claude Milot

Columbia's Cypress Cove Marina is under new management. All operations of the 25-acre marina are now under the direction of Ken and Kelly Moore of **Yacht Doc, Inc**, new members of *The Albemarle Loop*. This husband and wife team's history goes back to Michigan where Ken, who had been honing his skills repairing diesel engines on heavy trucks, switched to repairing boats in 1999. That led him to Chesapeake, Virginia, where he worked at Atlantic Yacht Basin before starting his own business under the **Yacht Doc** banner, with Kelly as his office backup.

Ken's expertise took him all over North Carolina's east coast, but when Everett Marine at Cypress Cove folded in January, the Moores saw the opportunity of a lifetime. They now run the most complete marine operation in Albemarle Sound. It includes the marina with 55 wet slips and dry storage for up to 50 boats, a complete ship's store, a dealership for Suzuki, Honda, Tohatsu outboards, and Beta Marine diesel engines, and an office for Capt. Frank Hughes's boat brokerage sales.

The Moores are in the planning stages of adding a Tiki bar that will serve beer, wine, coffee, and deli snacks. They will also have a captain's lounge with TV, recliners, a book-lending library, and WiFi for transient boaters to supplement the basic amenities of the marina (electric hook-ups, pump-out, showers, laundry, fresh water, diesel and ethanol-free fuel). Restaurants and shopping are available just across the Scuppernong River in historic, beautiful downtown Columbia.



Most impressive of all—and what makes **Yacht Doc, Inc @ Cypress Cove Marina** truly unique—is the boat repair facility, complete with a 25-ton travel lift that can haul out up to 48-foot boats and keep five mechanics busy with repairs ranging from a basic service to complete engine overhaul, whether gas outboard, inboard, or diesel. The technicians also repair plumbing, electronics, and fiberglass, and can power-wash, bottom-paint, polish, wax, and detail.

Ken and Kelly are brimming with enthusiasm. In fact, they want to stay so close to what's happening at Cypress Cove, they live on "Jersey Grace," their 36-foot Albin trawler docked in the marina. After all, they never want to be too far from the action, especially with the Loopers' spring migration about to begin.

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Additional Notes: Local knowledge for approach Cypress Cove Marina

Cypress Cove Marina lies along the upstream reaches of beautiful Scuppernong River. This stream cuts into the southern shores of Albemarle Sound east of Mackeys Creek, and well west of the AICW and Alligator River.

Early explorers were so enchanted with the beauty of Scuppernong River that they named it "Hearts Delight." This lovely body of water is narrower than its sister streams to the north and is lined by heavily wooded shores. Old, gnarled cypress trees with their trailing beards of gray moss majestically guard the banks. Here and there, a few picturesque homes break the landscape.

The marked Scuppernong River channel holds minimum 7-foot depths to Columbia. The dredged entrance passage from Bull Bay is well outlined by aids to navigation, as is the remainder of the river.



The entrance to Cypress Cove coming upriver is easily seen as a break in the trees on the south shore of the Scuppernong. Honor Red #10 close to starboard, and from there head directly for the center of their channel, noting the small stakes that mark the port side boundary. The center of the channel is consistently maintained at 5' or better but shoaling on either side can be an issue. There is little traffic, so not much worry about channel width. As you approach the marina, a 90-degree turn to port will put you in the well-protected basin where it is easy to maneuver to a slip or to tie up alongside the ships store (and Tiki bar).