

Follow along with us as we cruise onboard our
56' Ocean Yacht.

Somewhere on the Water

OUR STORY

Volume 2 – What happened to Second Nature



Hi, we are the Corbett family.

We are living our dream
and we welcome you to our story!

Come find us, we are out there –

[Somewhere on the Water!](#)



Recap from Volume 1: find it here: <https://alongsidecreations.com/about/>

- You learned how Mark discovered the Great Loop
- You were introduced to M/V Second Nature our family's boat for 15 years
- We provided a list of Buzzards Bay, MA boating hot spots

What is in Volume 2?

- What happened in 2008 with Second Nature?
- Find out how Mark's research is going
- How does he convince me that doing the 6,000-mile boat trip is a good idea?


Second Nature: A history story...

By now you know that Second Nature is our family's boat. Our first Summer on board was 2006. We had her for 15 years. We spent every summer on her...or did we?



Our 1980 Chris Craft; Second Nature was outfitted with dual engines that were original to the boat and required being rebuilt. We pushed them for as long as we could, but the time had come to bite the bullet and get the job done in 2008.



For the Summers of 2008 & 2009, we had this.  As I sit here and type this, I am wracking my brain to tell you what kind of boat it is. What I can tell you **is - it is not** Second Nature!

We did our best to make the most memorable summers with it. We tried lobstering; we went fishing; swimming; everything we did with Second Nature except sleep on board.

Having a small boat does have its advantages. For one, we can trailer it giving us opportunities to explore different waterways. Second, we saved money not having to pay mooring fees, and fuel was less expensive.

Cruising the Bass River to West Dennis Beach was one of my favorite days on this boat.



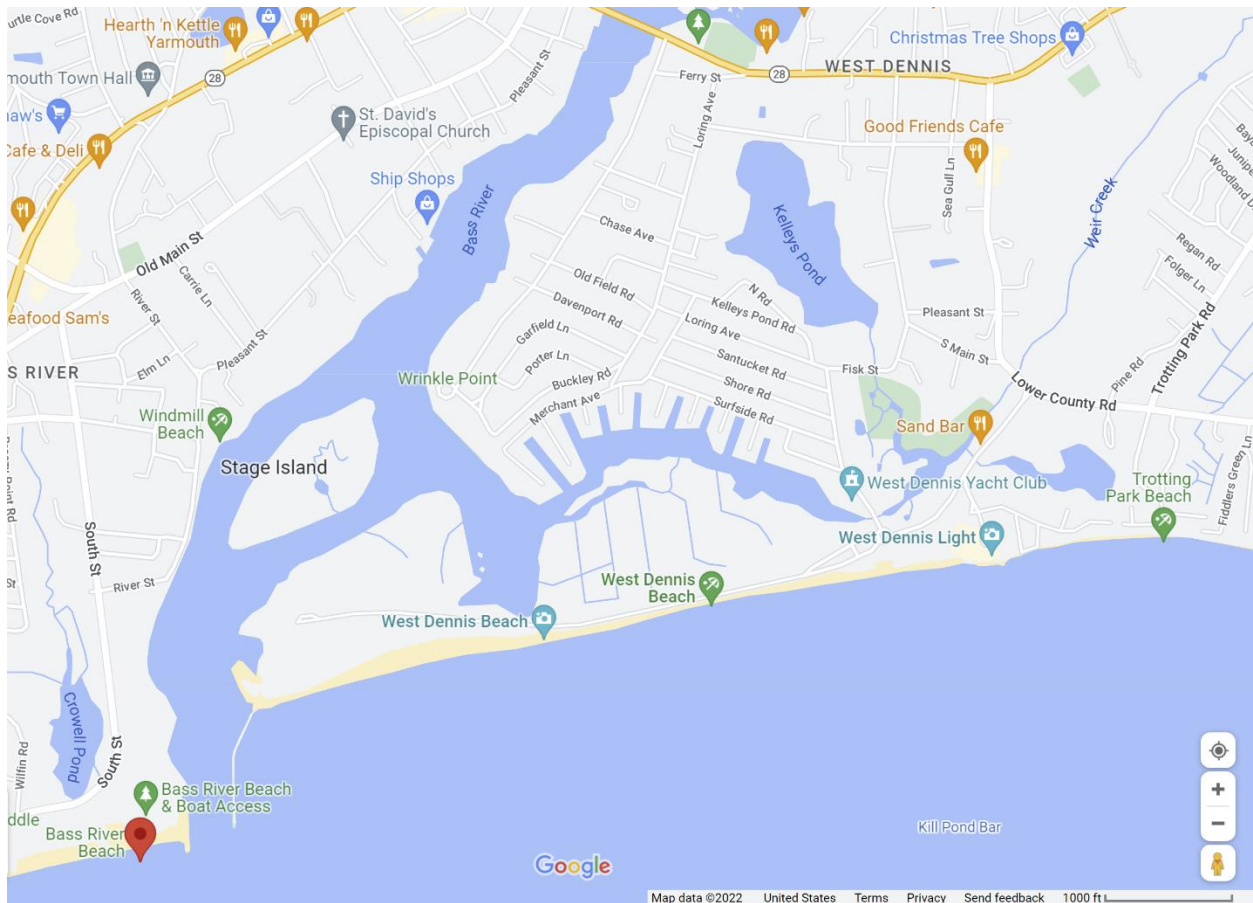
We cannot leave our favorite waterdog behind!



The kids are 5 & 7 in this photo



Bass River is an estuary that separates the towns of Yarmouth and Dennis. Originating in Follins Pond in Yarmouthport, Bass River meanders nine miles to Nantucket Sound, making it the longest river on Cape Cod.



Out with the old.



In with the new!

Finally! The Second Nature's engines have returned!

They have been rebuilt and are shiny and look brand new!



Getting those heavy suckers back into the boat was more than a one-man job, however, with some creative thinking and an unorthodox plan, Mark got them back home.

By the summer of 2010, we were back onboard Second Nature living it up!





Tropical Storm Irene hit Cape Cod in 2011.



After investing money into rebuilding the engines, Mark was going to do his due diligence to keep Second Nature safe! Riding out the storm while onboard the boat during Irene allowed Mark to make sure our boat did not cut loose and at the same time hopefully protect her from getting hit by those boats that did.

There are several videos on our YouTube channel of Mark while onboard Second Nature during the tropical storm.

Here is one:

<https://youtu.be/xS-pJgry3P8>

For many Summers we were back on the water onboard but with an old boat, there comes a lot of tinkering and maintenance. Mark was busy most weekends fiddling with one thing or another.





By 2017 we had busted through many floats; perfected our diving skills; acquired 4 new kayaks, and graduated from a \$20 inflatable boat to a real tender.

We took Second Nature to Lake Tashmoo on Martha's Vineyard & jumped off the Jaws Bridge; We had gone through the Cape Cod Canal and hit all our favorite spots, plus, Jordan started taking a greater interest in learning to drive. Check out a couple of videos:

<https://youtube.com/shorts/3G3lOgnvpo> - Jaws Bridge Jump

<https://youtu.be/BYloyhqz0> – Jordan bringing us into the fuel dock at Zecco!

All was good until...well, the shit hit the fan! Hard! Ugh!

What happened? Stay tuned! That is a long story for another day!

Back to the future: The Great Loop

FAILING TO PLAN
=
PLANNING TO FAIL

Mark is a researcher. A planner. I often wondered if he was in the right profession because of the amount of time he spends on a computer researching he should get paid for it, lol.

Hours, countless hours have gone into researching. Gaining knowledge, learning everything he can about the Great Loop. He read articles, the Companion Guide, watched YouTube videos, and started following a few people who were documenting their journeys and adventures of living onboard a boat and cruising full time. Regardless if they were cruising the loop or not. He was consumed with figuring out the good, the bad, and everything in between about how people were managing living onboard a boat and cruising full time.



Our Sunday morning; instead of the news was now Sunday morning in front of the tv watching YouTube.



One thing that Mark was focused on during all this research is **time!**

Time is unrenewable!

If not now, when?

Questions that swirled around in our head were:

- ? Do we bring the kids
- ? Do we wait until they are out of school

This is a huge one!!

“If I wait until I retire will I be physically capable of handling a boat the size that we need to do the loop and also live comfortably?”

And!!!

“If I wait, will I see my dream come true?”

How many people do you know that build a dream, a retirement dream, and the unpredictability of life steals that dream away due to illness, or death? There are so many unforeseen unpredictable uncontrollable factors *that could impede this cruise from happening if we wait.*

America's Great Loop may be in danger of closing!

<https://www.captainjohn.org/SuperLooper3.html>

Asian Carp are now just a few miles from Lake Michigan. The State of Michigan is trying to get the State of Illinois to hard close the locks to prevent the Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes and potentially destroying a \$7 Billion fishing industry.

The threat is a real one.

Aside from completing, and then checking the Great Loop off your "Bucket List" **before** you in fact *kick that bucket*.

This is just one more reason to cruise the Great Loop now.

Lock Closures for 2023

<https://www.greatloop.org/news/591354/Lock-Closures-for-2022-2023.htm>

Many locks along the Great Loop are incredibly old and in much need of maintenance. Waiting to get the loop done also runs the risk of not being able to navigate some of the best parts; which include Illinois.

The eight locks found on the Illinois Waterway, connecting Lake Michigan with the Mississippi River, were built back in the 1920s and 1930s. The locks have an expected 50-year lifespan, and the Corps has done an amazing job doubling that lifespan. The Illinois Waterway is one of the busiest in the nation, moving in the neighborhood of 140 million tons of goods up and down the river every year.

Answers: You need answers!

- How is Mark's research going?

Great! He is in his element. But, time does not appear to be on our side thanks to a bunch of fish!

- How does he convince me that doing the 6,000-mile boat trip is a good idea?

*For this volume's time frame - He hasn't, yet! Although I am sympathetic to his concern about time; **the when** - we still have two kids in school, and our job as parents is not done (nor will it ever be). Let's not lose sight of their goals in the midst of setting ours!*



Coming soon..

OUR STORY

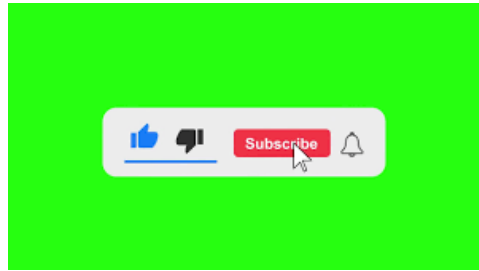
Volume 3 –

- More Second Nature history: What shit hit the fan?
- The next phase of research: The List
- Answering the reader's question: What do we do when we are not boating?

While you are waiting for Volume 3 – Check out our YouTube Page!

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRoO6w8JLnITrWcZdPDJY0Q>

Please like & subscribe.



You will always find the latest and greatest here at:

<https://alongsidecreations.com/somewhereonthewater/>

Just look for this



and click!

As always – Thank you for following along and showing your support. We appreciate you!

Time is unrenewable and tomorrow is never promised so do it before you can't!