

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

# Somewhere on the Water

## OUR STORY

### Volume 3 – The List!

Hi, we are the Corbett family.

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



Mark & Cynthia -2016

Come find us, we are out there –

[Somewhere on the Water!](#)

What was in Volume 2? <https://alongsidedcreations.com/about/>

- Second Nature was temporarily replaced with a different boat, why?
- Mark is researching the Loop and Boats.
- Has he convinced me (Cynthia) yet?
- The shit hit the fan!!

What is in Volume 3?

- Find out what shit hit the fan?
- The next phase: The List
- What do we do when we are not boating?

# Second Nature: A history story...



Engine blew!

Then

Mark blew!

I am going to make a long story as short as I can without losing too much detail. Let me start by asking you this:

Have you ever had guests over; tried your very hardest to give them a good time but no matter how hard you tried there was one person who was bound and determined to not have fun and ruin it for everyone?

It happened to us. We entertained our guests with food, drink, and in this case, a cruise and an opportunity to experience boat life; swimming, relaxing, and soaking up a gorgeous summer afternoon. It was the perfect day for almost all of us on board except one. At every chance, this person could get they had something snarky to say and reminded us of how much he did not want to be there. By the end of the day, Mark had lost his patience (a very, very, very rare occurrence!) and put the peddle to the medal so to speak, and just tried to get us to the dock as fast as possible so we could salvage our evening.

Hindsight is 20/20 and unfortunately, an engine blew while we were on our way back to the dock. We limped in on one engine, said goodbye, and to this day have never invited them back on board.

Second Nature had up to now been a good boat but let's not forget it is a 1980 Chris Craft. It had developed a few quirks and many hours had been spent tinkering. Mark would start every weekend with a boat project. He would of course take care of these projects while we were on



board so that we girls could swim, sun, and have fun. Very thoughtful. Mark had a comprehensive tool bag onboard the boat, so he was prepared for planned and unplanned mechanic issues.

In the summer of 2017, we once again were without Second Nature. It became a summer of 4-wheeling out to Sandy Neck Beach; bonfires; kayaking. Fortunately for us many of our friends make Sandy Neck Beach their summer hangout, so we were surrounded by friends, and family and had the opportunity to meet a lot of new people. Best of all Brandy, our golden lab who loved the water and was aging out of boating could come with us to the beach.



# Mark Corbett: A boy and his boats

You didn't think we would be able to keep Mark off the water, did you?

Not for long anyway. While we were in limbo regarding Second Nature and her future, Mark bought a small skiff boat. We trailered it around and explored places like the Centerville River, Sampson's Island, and Barnstable Harbor. It added to our overall enjoyment of the summer and kept Mark "on the water."

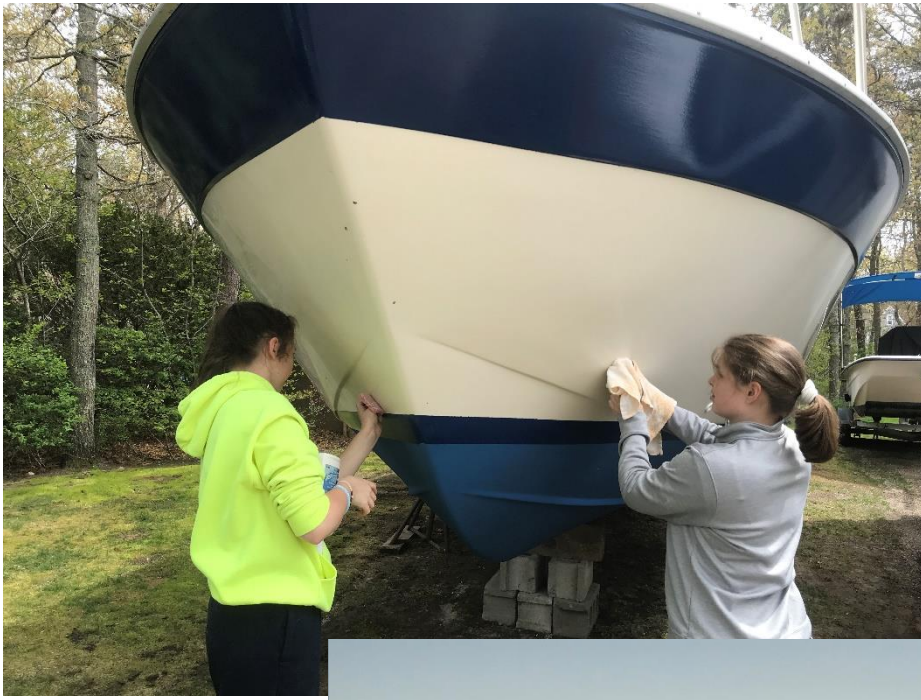
This is our inaugural cruise: It was cold, and cold, and cold. We stopped that day at Makeese Restaurant for chowder and some warmth before calling it a day.



Filling our summer with a trip to Vermont, and accepting the otherwise declined invites to parties and backyard BBQs was very enjoyable.

What was Second Nature's fate? Well if it wasn't for Haleigh asking dad to "not give up on the old girl" She would have gone to the scrap yard. Luckily for us; Mark did not give up on her and by 2018....





We were back onboard  
Second Nature, doing  
what we love  
best..cruising Buzzards  
Bay!





# Back to the future: The Great Loop

## The list!

What do we need to do to accomplish the loop?

Mark had read the Companion Guide, researched online, joined FaceBook groups, and is now comparing boats. Which boat is right for our family? Well, the right boat needs to fit Mark's criteria and some of mine so we created a list:

The shortened version:

- ☑ 2 side doors to access both the port & starboard sides  
Mark will be operating this boat by himself for the most part so easy access for docking, etc. he wants doors on both sides of the boat
- ☑ 2 helm stations. He does not want to get stuck up on the flybridge helm separate from the family while cruising.
- ☑ 3 cabins and at least 2 heads with an aft cabin master
- ☑ duel engines with decent maneuverability around them for ease of maintenance
- ☑ Height – there are some low-clearance bridges on the loop so we need to be able to clear them.
- ☑ A decent galley and if possible a washer/dryer.

The original list of course was much longer and more detailed. Mark tried to think of everything that a family who is living onboard would need to be comfortable. It was easy to dismiss many different style boats once it is realized what you are not willing to compromise on.

The timeline of if and when are we going to do this will be partially set by finding the right boat and being able to afford it! We haven't discussed how we are going to finance this 1-year adventure.

➤ What do we do when we are not boating?

So by now, we have a senior in high school with plans to attend college in the fall of 2019. We are fully engulfed with all things encompassing having a busy high school senior, plus another daughter in high school. Both dance, full-time 6 days per week. If they are not at school, they are at the dance studio in class or student teaching or we are traveling for competitions. Let's add drama club, and chorus to the docket which means plays, and concerts are on our agendas. To answer the question; what do we do when we are not boating; we are full-time dance parents, Mark owns his own business and I work outside the home full-time. When we are not doing those things we talk about boating. In the winter we talk about how much we miss boating. We do enjoy time with our friends, and family, but weather plays a factor in some of our recreational activities like biking, rollerblading, and kayaking. Thanksgiving week is typically our family vacation week and we have traveled to Charleston, SC, Washington DC, and New York City to watch the Macy's Parade, to name a few.

I enjoy crafting and scrapbooking and Mark hunts with his buddies.

Mark is a lifelong boater. He owned a boat and spent his youth lobstering out of Plymouth Harbor as early as age 11. His family owned a few boats. One of our first dates was on his dad's boat Reel Deal. Mark is a graduate of Massachusetts Maritime Academy and has been to the Caribbean, the Mediterranean, all along the US East Coast, and many more amazing destinations thanks to his education and early years working as an engineer and first mate on private yachts. It is inconceivable that Mark would be happy without being on the water.

# You already know the ending...

## We are almost there...

The story I tell is that in some sort of **drunken stupor**, Mark says I agreed to live on board a boat for 5 years.  
I don't get drunk very often, but when I do **apparently** it is a good time to pounce 😊

Although in **my memory** I believe I said in 5 years (after the kids are settled and are out of college) I would go on this adventure.

Either way; **the general premise** = once Haleigh graduates high school in Spring 2021 and is settled at college that Fall we can start the process. Jordan would be a Junior at college by then.

Not having any idea of a time frame for:

1. ? how long it could take to find a boat
2. ? arrange surveys,
3. ? financing, etc.,

Financing? We haven't even talked about how we are going to afford this!

**YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW** so Mark began his boat search immediately.

The good news: He found a boat that would be perfect!

The bad news: There were only 11 made in the whole world!

The better news: We found one for sale!

The best news: It is only 2 hours from where we lived!

The listing by Essex Marine Group:

Valkyrie is a graceful and beautifully appointed yacht that has been maintained and upgraded by an experienced yachtsman. In the past five years over \$170,000 was spent on updates (ask to see the list). She spent the first seventeen years of her life in fresh water in Canada. She is a spacious and versatile cruiser with a full-beam salon, very well-equipped galley, three double staterooms with full



heads, a stand-up engine room, and an eight-foot cockpit. She is powered by twin Detroit 671 T1 diesel engines with 2960 hours.



Arranging a viewing was no trouble. Mark, Haleigh, and I took the drive from Cape Cod to Connecticut. Met Bruce the broker and toured the boat. It was the middle of Winter (2019/2020). Valkyrie was on the hard and covered with shrink wrap.

The good news: We loved it!

The bad news: We are one year ahead of schedule, how do we afford it and still, own our home?

The worst news: We can't! We have to sell the house!

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Sell, sell, sell.

We need to sell the house, the contents, and Second Nature!

Our last family photo on our last weekend aboard Second Nature!



The good news: The kids are totally on board with this plan.

The bad news: I am having a problem, emotionally, getting rid of our stuff.

We lived in our home on Cape Cod for 18 years. We had developed a wonderful relationship with many of our neighbors, and our community. I am very sentimental and did not want to have to say goodbye to all the things that made our house the home that was cherished and full of memories. We raised two kids, two dogs, a cat, fish, and three guinea pigs, hosted many gatherings, welcomed an exchange student from Spain, hosted my mother-in-law for a short time, and the list goes on and on.

Plus, how does one justify getting rid of real estate on Cape Cod?

We will never be able to buy a home on the cape again, most likely we could never afford it.

And, the thought of organizing, packing, selling, and donating 18 years of accumulated stuff is very daunting!



March 2002, the day we bought the house.



The listing photo. 2020

I tried making every argument I could come up with to keep from selling the house. Ultimately it comes down to this one statement.

***It is not about what I am losing, it is about what I am gaining!***



This is what getting ready to sell our house looks like.



We painted the house! Yes, I mean we, the four of us painted the house!



We decluttered, packed, sold, threw out, donated and stored our stuff.







Our storage unit!  
At one point we had 2.



Mark resurfaced the driveway.



Then we set the stage for selling.



The bad news: COVID-19 hit our entire world. It made it difficult to donate, have yard sales, etc. due to social distancing and closures.

The good news: COVID-19. It created a housing market that put us in the position to sell our home at the above asking price.

Our Real Estate Agent, Jane was incredible, extremely knowledgeable, and guided us with patience through the whole process. It could not have gone any better.

Our plan.

Step 1. Sell the house in Spring 2020. – easy peasy.



Step 2. Buy the boat in the Summer of 2020, and move onboard. – hold on there...not so easy peasy. You will have to jump through a lot of hoops to make that happen!



Coming soon..

# OUR STORY

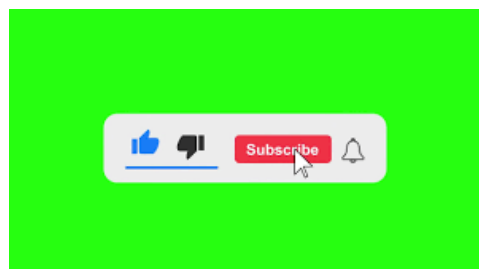
## Volume 4 – Jumping through hoops

- Selling the house
- Financing the boat nightmare
- Housing trouble

While you are waiting for Volume 4 – 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!**

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