

MARV's Weather Service

by Fred Braman

For boats like my Catalina 30 *Rhombus*, long trips have one major reoccurring problem, "what's the weather? Boats equipped with a single-sideband (SSB) radio, have the capability to tune into both standard and subscription weather broadcasts easily providing weather information. Boats without SSB are dependent on passing cruisers coming from where you are going, plus whatever information you can get any time you pass an island with a cell tower on it! There are a lot of on-line weather sites, and they all have one thing in common, you have to get on-line to use them. Fortunately, many starting locations are fairly well connected.

I discovered Marv while acting on a tip from a sailing friend. Marv is an avid cruiser himself who repackages available information from the various weather buoy reports into his own display. What is unique about his displays is he provides information for the routes that people actually do: Miami to Bimini, Bimini to Great Harbour Cay, Great Harbour Cay to Nassau, Highbourne Cay to Cape Eleuthera, or Spanish Wells to Cape Eleuthera. In my recent two month cruise, Marv had every leg covered; although I did some in reverse order like Cape Eleuthera to Spanish Wells. No problem!

Once you subscribe with Marv, you will get a daily email with this display. Click on the larger ship and you will get all the route choices. Pick the one you need.

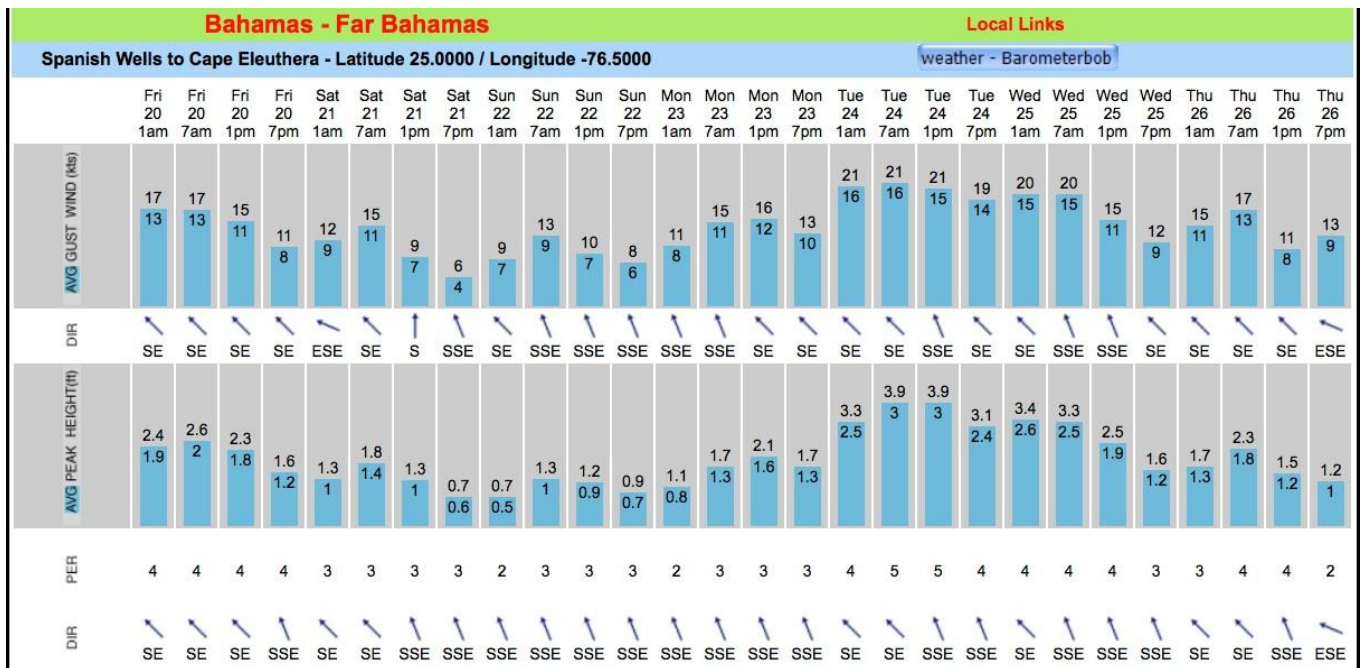
Marv's Weather Service
 Marv's Daily Virtual Buoy Reports
 Marv's Tropical Weather Report

Florida - West Coast | US East Coast - South | US East Coast - North | Bahamas - Abacos | Near Bahamas
 Far Bahamas | Eastern Caribbean | St Thomas to Trinidad | inland waters | Cuba and South | Okeechobee Waterway
 Small Vessel Reporting System | Bahamas Application to Import Pets

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disclaimer - all forecasts herein are made to the best ability of the forecaster .. however, due to standard forecasting error, these forecasts cannot be guaranteed .. any action or inaction taken by users of this forecast is the sole responsibility of that user ..

I haven't used all of Marv's routes, but all the ones I needed Marv had covered!



Marv provides the weather information of interest to a 30 ft sailboat: wind velocity and direction and wave height and direction. It still might rain, but you have a good idea starting out what kind of day it's likely to be, or (as it turned out on several occasions) not starting out at all!

One additional trick in using Marv's Weather Service. Cruisers know that while traveling among the islands email is much easier to receive than signing onto a web site. Catch a whiff of a cell signal and bingo, emails suddenly appear on your phone. Even if you witness the event, chances are that immediately signing onto a site will be unsuccessful. I have a sailing friend who kept track of where I was and copied the applicable Marv display into the body of his daily email to me. No website needed! Another thing about Marv, you can talk to him! We had a nice en route exchange. I was focused on Cape Eleuthera to Spanish Wells, preparing to sail along the west coast of Eleuthera, in the lee of and a couple hundred yards off the island. Marv was showing 4 to 5 ft waves in 20 to 25 knot winds across the island. I couldn't understand how such large seas would build in such a short fetch. So I asked Marv about it and he answered right away, confident of his projection. He'd been accurate for a thousand miles, so I didn't go. He was right!

Marv also provides a tropical weather update anytime there is tropical activity. You can sign up for that service at the same time as registering for the buoy report. Marv's Weather Service is free, but he does have expenses. If you find his work helpful and use it, please help pay the bills.

Captain Fred Braman, USN (ret) sails his Catalina 30 *Rhombus* out of Fleming Island, Florida. Contact him at fredbraman@hotmail.com. After decades of live aboard cruising in their *M/V Dee Light*, Carol and Marv Market are now ICW "cliffdwellers" in Ft. Myers, Florida. Contact Marv at marvweather@gmail.com.