

3/15/2009

Well, the maiden winter on [Seven Tenths](#) has been challenging to say the least. But we are on the downward slide now. When we left you last we were struggling with keeping us warm on the boat. As the water temps dipped into the low forties our “heat pumps” could not be used so we plugged in two oil filled heaters and another two ceramic ones when we were here. However when the temps dropped further and stayed in the thirties in the daytime and twenties at night it got pretty chilly in here....down to 50 degrees sometimes. We were also maxing out our power. That is when we decided to bite the proverbial bullet and install a heating system. The next month could be an entire log itself but I will give you a shortened version. We hired an installer who was a typical marine guy who did not show up when he said he would but did good work when he was here. The boat looked like an explosion had happened and sawdust was everywhere. Little “hockey pucks” from drilling holes for tubing and vent hose began to appear. The system was finally up and running on January 24th (the weekend AFTER the single digit weekend) and it is SWEET! It keeps us warm and toasty and we are happy we installed it.

We invited some friends to join us for New Years Eve but they had to bail out. It was okay because it was cold and very windy and we did not have good heat on the boat yet. My sister, Cindy, showed up though so we planned to walk to Bo Brooks for dinner and then watch the Inner Harbor fireworks. Well it was so windy that the fireworks were cancelled. Then the “heat guy” shows up at 4:30 and works till 9PM! Finally, we go to dinner, come home and watch the ball drop and go to bed. Party animals we were not! The next evening the fireworks are launched and they are right in front of the boat. It is too bad that no one else was here to see it.



On January 13th, we had the individual polar bear event on [Seven Tenths](#). Leaving for work that day, I stepped onto the swim platform as usual, slipped on some invisible ice and fell in the water!!! Do you know you weigh 900 pounds with winter gear on? The water temp was about 38 degrees and I knew I had to get out quickly. It was a little scary and luckily Henry was awake and heard me fall in. It was hard to get out but I did with his help. Of course after he knew I was okay he was laughing his butt off. And then he had to tell everyone! I am sooo careful out there. I always step carefully, always hold on till I step off and I always step to the closest part of the dock. I mentioned when we got here that maybe we should put a ladder down but he didn't think that was necessary...I think he is rethinking that now.

I am fine and life goes on. However...I don't plan to do that again.

We have had our share of wind this winter. Some days and nights it sounded like a freight train coming at us. Henry's folks spent one of those windy nights on the boat with us and his Mom isn't a "water person" so I am sure it was a little unnerving for her. There has been skim ice around us and our scuppers grew giant icicles. We have had several days when the pier had ice and snow on it and we had to be extra careful. On January 28th we woke up to a solid inch or more of ice on the dock. Henry's company was closed for the day



but mine was not. It was supposed to warm up as the day went on but it was mid-afternoon before that happened so I had to take a vacation day. Normally, the marina uses a snow blower on the dock but they had not done it yet so Henry beat them to it. He shoveled our entire pier...about 400 feet! And he laughed at me when I put a snow shovel on the boat! It is a good thing I did because March roared in on the 2nd with 5-6 inches of snow! Again, Henry's company closed but I trudged through it and went to work. Snow is much easier to walk on than ice. We will both be so glad when winter is over. Can we retire yet???



We did get to be a boat once over the winter. In mid February our fuel got lower than the pick up tube for the new "furnace" so it

would not fire up. It runs on diesel fuel. So one Saturday morning with mostly sun and no wind we cranked up those little Yanmars (our engines) and cruised on over to the fuel dock to put 500 gallons in. It was \$2.70 per gallon. Yeah, do the math!

Now we are looking forward to going back to Edwards Boatyard in Middle River. Hopefully, we can do that by the end of March. We will let you know when we are docked at our new home!



**Remember, the world is seven-tenths water
and we should spend seven-tenths of our time on it!**