



A Dog's Life:
John with his
rescued greyhound
Sultan.

Boater's World:

From his covered stern deck, John Holmgren overlooks his floating Buzzard's Roost neighborhood.

Dock-Side Sailor

Buzzards' Roost Marina on John's Island is where you'll typically find retired sales executive **John Holmgren**, sitting on the dock overlooking the Stono River content to watch the world go by. Originally from Andover, Massachusetts, Holmgren grew tired of the long, cold Northern winters and decided to "reverse the seasons." "I've always been hugely attracted to salt water, so I picked four coastal cities, spent a couple of days in each, and then decided on Charleston," he says.

A true suburbanite his entire life, Holmgren traded in his eight-room home complete with an attic and basement and took the plunge to try his hand at living

on a boat. "Since I love the water and really didn't have any desire to live in a city or on a farm, boat life just seemed to be a natural choice," he says. So in 1997, Holmgren discarded a lifetime of possessions and, along with Sultan, his 10-year-old greyhound, moved onto *Zephyr*, a 40-foot Marine Trader trawler.

Holmgren purchased the pleasure trawler in New Hampshire and spent one season there before sailing to Charleston in 1998. "I spent one month at another Charleston marina before moving to Buzzards' Roost four and a half years ago. It's only 15 minutes to downtown, and I really enjoy the country setting and family atmosphere," he says.

Drawing only four feet, *Zephyr* can be sailed

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almost anywhere, and, with her beamy 14-foot width, she has all the creature comforts. The main stateroom is complete with a queen-sized bed, television with cable, and a private head with bathtub.

The salon does double-duty as Holmgren's living room as well as his home office, where he runs *Zephyr Enterprises*, a resume writing service. The spacious teak galley includes a propane stove and oven, a large sink, a full-sized electric refrigerator, and numerous storage lockers, cabinets, and bins. The bachelor-on-board uses the additional stateroom and head for storage.

Content to keep *Zephyr* docked the majority of the time, a 10-foot fiberglass Cape Dory dinghy satisfies

Holmgren's desire to be mobile on the water. "I consider *Zephyr* my home and live on her in such a way that I prefer not leave the dock except on special occasions. Exploring the Stono River in my dink is enough of an adventure for me," he says.

In addition to being at Sultan's beck and call, Holmgren volunteers at Bishop Gadsden Retirement Community, helps out on the construction of the *Spirit of South Carolina*, and enjoys all the cultural events offered in Charleston. "I have no regrets whatsoever with my new lifestyle," declares Holmgren. "I have never experienced one minute of buyer's regret or remorse."