

Superyacht headed for new home in Port marina

Written by KRISTYN HALBIG ZIEHM
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<http://www.ozaukeepress.com/images/070413/yachtSM.png>

Harbormaster says 130-foot Hatteras is en route to city where it will occupy entire end of north slip marina

Port Washington may soon be home to its first superyacht — a 130-foot-long, three-deck Hatteras power boat named Tranquility, which is expected to occupy an entire end of the north slip marina later this summer.

The 130-ton, 25-foot-wide yacht, which has luxury accommodations for 10 people, will easily be the largest vessel in the marina, Harbormaster Dennis Cherny said last week.

“It’s twice the size of the biggest boat in the marina,” he said. “It’s a modern looking boat. It looks almost like it belongs in a James Bond movie.”

“I think this will be a tourist attraction. People don’t normally see a boat like that. People are going to want to come and see this boat.”

Bill Prince, president of Bill Prince Yacht Design Inc. in Port Washington, agreed.



“It’s not such a big boat it will overwhelm the marina,” he said. “It will be a bit of eye candy for Port Washington, certainly.”

Tranquility is owned by Tom Weickardt of Whitefish Bay, owner of the River Club of Mequon country club, Cherny said. Weickardt and his wife plan to live aboard the yacht during the summer, he added.

Cherny said Weickardt approached him around April 1 to see if he could keep the boat in the Port marina.

There’s enough room to keep the yacht along the north wall of the north slip marina, Cherny said.

That space is typically used for transient boats, Cherny said, but he doesn’t expect to be pinched for space this summer.

With the cool summer and the still-slow economy, Cherny said transient traffic has been down during the past three years.

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“This will be a boon for us economically,” he said.

Weickardt will be charged \$10,000 for the docking space this season, Cherny said, a figure based on the size of his boat. Currently, the season rent for a 50-foot boat slip is \$3,500, he said.

Weickardt will be responsible for the electricity he uses, Cherny added.

“With the size of that boat, it’s going to be like living in a home,” he said.

Tranquility has a master stateroom, three queen guest rooms and a twin guest stateroom, a galley equipped with a Wolf cooktop, Gaggenau exhaust and two commercial grade SubZero refrigerators and freezers, and a walk-in wine cabinet near the dining salon, according to information posted by the brokerage firm.

Built in 1995 and retrofitted in 2006 and 2007, Tranquility is powered by two 1,200 horsepower Detroit diesel engines, can carry 6,000 gallons of fuel and cruises at 17 mph. Its top speed is 25 mph.

The boat draws eight feet of water, something Cherny said can be accommodated this year.

“We’ve gained a lot of water in the last six months,” he said, estimating the lake level is 14 to 18 inches higher now than it was earlier in the year.

“That’s made a big difference,” he said.

Tranquility, which is currently listed for sale for \$4.9 million, is several stories tall, about the height of the cruising ships that moored in the marina over winter several years ago, Cherny said.

Weickardt is also talking about the possibility of keeping the boat in the marina over winter, he noted.

That’s been done before, Cherny said, although it hasn’t been common.

Weickardt is bringing the boat to Port Washington from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Cherny said.

“In Fort Lauderdale, he’s not the biggest boat in town, but here he will be,” Cherny added.

Weickardt selected the Port marina because of its proximity to the country club he owns and the proximity of the slips to downtown, Cherny said.

But not everybody is thrilled about Tranquility’s stay in Port.

Former alderman Jim Vollmar, co-owner of Port Harbor Center along the north slip marina, questioned whether the boat will overwhelm the marina and usurp dock space used by

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fishermen.

By allowing the boat in the space, and potentially letting it dock year-round — something he said isn't typically done — the marina is changing the rules for one person, he said.

But Cherny said there is plenty of room for the yacht and fishermen to coexist, and said other boats have moored in the marina throughout the year.

The Harbor Commission signed off on the deal, City Administrator Mark Grams said. And Ald. Bill Driscoll, a member of the city's Harbor Commission, said most of the people he's talked to are excited to see Tranquility.

"Marinas are for boats, and the cooler the boat, the better for the marina," he said.

Image Information: THE 130-FOOT Tranquility is at least twice as long as any other boat in the Port Washington marina.