

Cruising Website Options

Sherry Beckett - s/v Soggy Paws

Website Options

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do your own website<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Free sites (yahoo page, etc)– Pay for space• Have someone else do it• Try a free 'blog'• Just share pictures• Others ???	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What works for you will depend on<ul style="list-style-type: none">– How computer-savvy you are– Web access / cruising style <p>A long range cruiser in remote Pacific vs US-based w/ wifi should have different priorities.</p>
--	---

Steps to doing your own website

- Pick a 'domain name' 'svsoggypaws.com'
 - The pointer to your website
- Get a 'web host'
 - A place to put your web pages that is accessible to everyone
- Create the web pages on your computer
- 'Publish' (upload) the pages to your site

1. Getting your Domain Name

- Go to a 'Domain Registrar Site and use their tool'
 - NetworkSolutions.com
 - GoDaddy.com (cheapest in general)
- Put in the name you think you want
- See if it's taken
- Keep trying...

2. Get a Web Host

- I use ReadyHosting.com
 - \$100/year for first site, \$50/year for additional
 - Virtually unlimited space, bandwidth, mailboxes
 - Good basic support, FrontPage Extensions
- Other alternatives
 - <http://www.godaddy.com> (\$4/mo very basic site)
 - <http://reviews.cnet.com>
 - Look for Web Hosting and Basic Hosting Plans

Free Web Hosting

- AOL, Earthlink, Roadrunner, etc
- Limited space, complicated URL
- But free and a good way to learn

3. Create Web Pages on your Computer

- Options
 - Some web hosts have online 'web builders'
 - Microsoft Front Page (my recommendation)
 - Microsoft Word 'save as web page' (limited)
 - Macromedia Dreamweaver (complicated, \$\$)
 - Used by most web designers
 - Coffee Cup Visual Site Designer (??) [Link](#)
 - HotDog Junior (??) very simple, very cheap [Link](#)
 - Pure html (very complicated, free)
- Front Page
 - Very 'Microsoft-like' (if you know Word...)
 - Extensive help
 - Good books written/DVD classes available
 - Free Microsoft training (office.microsoft.com)
 - Look for 'academic discounts' when purchasing if you have kid/relative in school (25-50% off)
 - FrontPage 2000 or higher

Photos on Websites

- MUST resize photos from today's cameras
 - Web page speed is DIRECTLY related to size of photos
 - Photos should be less than 100KB size
- I use CompuPic (fast, batch resize, etc) <http://compupic.com/>
- Freeware IrfanView (<http://irfanview.com>)
- Any photo program will do! (PictureIt, HP, etc)
 - No photos bigger than 800 x 600 pixels
 - Jpg only, 75%-85% 'reduction'
- Use 'thumbnails' (250 x 150) on the web page, with a link to the larger picture
 - FrontPage has 'auto thumbnail' option (Easy!)
- Consider photo-sharing sites with a link from your webpage
 - Not as time-efficient for long range cruisers without frequent web access

4. Upload Your Site

- Front Page
 - Click 'upload' button, enter site password
 - Only uploads changed pages
 - Must have 'Front Page Extensions' on web host

- FTP (file transfer protocol)
 - WS_FTP
 - CuteFTP (what I use)
 - Drag and drop via Windows

Sample Cruising Websites

- <http://www.svsoggypaws.com>
- <http://www.thetwocaptains.com>
- <http://home.earthlink.net/~caliberlrc/>
- <http://www.seerose.cruiser.co.za/seerose/>

One Important Caution

Don't post your email address on your site
THIS INVITES SPAM

Trick: Turn your email address into a jpg
(use free 'Paint' program)

Don't make a link

People CAN read the address
'web crawlers' CAN'T 'harvest' the address

The 'Blog' Option

- What is a 'blog'? ("web log")

A website where entries are made in journal style and displayed in a reverse chronological order. A typical blog combines text, images, and links to other blogs, web pages, and other media related to its topic.

- Sample Blog Sites

<http://yacht-maiken.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.svsoggypaws.com/blog/>

<http://csysailboats.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.sailblogs.com/member/whosyourdaddy/>

Your First Blog in 10 minutes

- Sign up for free at blogger.com
- Chose a template (site layout)
- Enter a description of the site, and fill out a questionnaire-style form
- Upload a photo (optional)
- Write a log entry (text + photo(s))
- Tell your friends! [svsoggypaws.blogspot.com](http://www.svsoggypaws.com)
- Site templates can be changed later
- Customize features as you figure them out
- MUST be online...

Where to get a free Blog

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Blogger.com• SailBlogs.com (designed for cruisers)• CaptainWiki.com• 360.yahoo.com• OurStory.com• MySpace.com	Most have a free 'basic' account and charge a monthly fee for extras (more space, features)
---	---

Blogspot.com

(from my own experience)

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Simple, free• Can email in 'posts' (log entries) via winlink• Web readers can post comments on your posts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can have multiple users post (crew)• Can post on your own website
---	--

- 'sailblogs.com' looks very interesting—no time to investigate before the Gam!

The 'Downside' of Blogs

- Your precious log is in someone else's hands
- Limited control over format
- Mostly an 'online' tool
- If you are cruising extensively, and/or write and take pictures a lot, will cost eventually

Photo Sharing Sites

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SnapFish.com• KodakGallery.com• Photos.Yahoo.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ShutterFly.com• Flickr.com• Picasa.com (Google's site)
--	--

- All are free sites, upload photos, share with friends, limited ability to comment

Other Free Options

- HomePageNow.com