

**The “Big Cruise” on *Paloma***  
**OR**  
**The Wind Blew and the Pooh Flew Too!**  
**By 31seahorse (2007 ?)**

The food was purchased several days in advance,  
But the winds were wrong. We could see at a glance.  
Weather for departure on the weekend was also poor,  
And even on Monday we weren't really sure.  
Then bright and early we headed out on that Tuesday.  
We had planned and packed carefully and at last were away.



The first thing that scared us and nearly stopped my heart  
Was the fact that at home was Capt. Finn's carefully marked chart!  
With our own GPS and charts in the nav station  
We started on south for our two-week cruise vacation.

The first long day leg of our sailing trip  
Took us on past Naples, a stop we could skip.  
We motor sailed with a fine breeze at old *Paloma's* aid.  
She frolicked and bounded as five and a half knots she made.  
After Naples came Marco Island with safe Factory Bay,  
But we plowed under the bridge through the Marco River anyway.  
An hour and a half later with our anchor in sand  
We had stopped for the night in a spot called Goodland.  
The residents didn't visit us, but the bugs surely did.  
At the first sting of No-See-Ums in the cabin we hid!

Day two of the adventure started at O Eight Hundred hours.  
We raised anchor and headed off without taking showers.  
With Coon Key light left to starboard a reasonable bit  
*Paloma* headed along the shore and the GPS unit quit!  
The power cord seems the culprit quite sure it's true.  
I'll need to buy a new one, perhaps even two.