

Sunset Sail Key West
Schooner Malabar X
7009 Shrimp Rd
Key West, Florida 33040



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Key West Historic Seaport
Greene Street Dockage Proposal
April 9, 2025

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In consideration of the staff's written resolution to require a schooner of under 78ft to occupy the dock at the end of Greene St, we submit 1930 schooner Malabar X (75ft) to be located there.

Schooner Malabar X is a historic 1930 wooden gaff schooner yacht, the personal conveyance and passion project of famed American naval architect John G Alden. Widely considered to be the magnum opus of his private schooner portfolio, Malabar X boasts three private cabins sleeping 6 people, as well as a spacious salon, galley and navigation station. She was built by Hodgdon Brothers of East Boothbay, ME, to win the Newport Bermuda races of her time - which she did, smashing records in 1930 and 1932.

Measuring 75 feet overall and 59 feet on deck, USCG certified for 32 guests, Malabar X has a spacious cockpit and convenient low deck housing, making her the perfect vessel for a signature classic schooner sail in the Keys.

To sail on Malabar X is to step back in time; on the beautiful sprung teak deck beneath a cloud of white canvas, surrounded by gleaming varnish and antique bronze hardware, our guest is transported to the glory days when yachting was the preferred fair-weather pastime of society's upper echelons.

Currently, the Malabar X is docked at Stock Island, as Owner / Operator Seth Salzmann has been unable to obtain dock space in the Historic Key West Seaport despite being on the waiting list since January 9, 2016.

Captain Seth has been a strong advocate of putting a schooner at the Greene Street Dockage pursuant to Resolution 92-400 which was signed in September of 1992. This resolution outlines the maritime heritage of the Key West Historic Seaport and specifically states that "there is a preserved place for schooners and other historic tall ships at the foot of Greene Street."

With that being said, running a wooden vessel of historic significance in the tropics is not without its complications. Considering the Keys' status as a Category 4 hurricane zone, in addition to the damage prolonged exposure to warm water does to a wooden vessel in the form of likely infestation by Teredo worms along with the malicious degradation of fine woodwork and varnish in the blistering sun, we consider it our responsibility to remove the vessel to cooler climes during the summer months. Traditionally, wooden sailing vessels

depart the warm waters of Key West for the cooler waters up North, with Malabar X being no exception. Our proposal would be to place the steel-hulled schooner Wolf, Flagship of Key West and the Conch Republic into the slip in the summer months in Malabar X's stead - thus providing citizens and tourists alike with a locally relevant classic sailing experience throughout the year.

Allowing Schooner Malabar X into the Key West Historic Seaport would fulfil the original mission of Resolution 92-400, and would in addition allow for a growing local, independent entrepreneur from the waiting list - rather than one of the small selection of current multiple slip owners - to have an opportunity to benefit from this prime location.

Our Specific Proposal:

We propose to place the 75ft 1930 schooner yacht Malabar X (10) in the dock occupying slip H3 and the adjacent seawall. She is a truly magnificent historic vessel, USCG certified to carry up to 32 guests. Considering the aforementioned perils to a wooden ship in this zone during the summer, we propose that Malabar X's occupancy of Dock H3 from November to June be supplemented in the intervening months with another sailing vessel. We are prepared to facilitate the restoration of steel-hulled local Flagship schooner Wolf with a view to running her out of the dock in Malabar's necessary absence during the summer months. We will gladly pay dockage on the slip for the season in the absence of a suitable vessel this summer. However, as the opportunity to occupy a City slip is a rare and coveted one then, should the Board deem it a necessary condition of our occupancy, we would be willing to take the extraordinary measure of keeping Malabar X in Key West for Summer of 2025 in order to bring to life our vision of restoring the Wolf to stand as our Summer sailing attraction providing a thriving year-round educational classic sailing experience in Key West's historic seaport.

It goes without saying that we would agree to any and all terms, conditions and requirements stated in the lease at the time of signing should our proposal meet with your approval.

Benefits to the Historic Seaport

The benefits of having a true historic schooner docked at the Greene Street slip cannot be overstated.

Aesthetic Impact - The visual impact of having a traditional vessel in such a high-profile slip is one that can be capitalized on for numerous tourism-related publications, showcasing our world-class historic seaport. While we recognize that the other forms of watercraft are relevant to the economic impact of the marina, it is first and foremost a HISTORIC Seaport.

Preservation of Maritime Heritage – Sunset Sail Key West’s proven track record of providing a safe, mentored, financially viable pathway into the sailing industry for career mariners has already been detailed in this proposal. In addition, Founder Captain Seth Salzmann is known across the industry for his ability to maintain and manage his vessels in such a way as to preserve their history, integrity and viability for years to come. The contributions of our alumni to the preservation of America’s maritime heritage are notable, with people placed across the industry from cargo ships to catamarans, from the Azores to Antarctica, from sea captains to stewardesses.

Collateral revenue and publicity - Malabar X is a truly historic vessel, and she and When And If have a following all their own. People have travelled across the country specifically to sail aboard. Guests assigned to other boats in her marinas come to her dockside asking how they can book a trip after their current charter. Her beauty and elegance do not go unnoticed by the cognoscenti in media and production who have chartered us for clients as diverse as Ralph Lauren, Tommy Bahama and Amazon’s *The Marvellous Mrs Maisel*. Each of those productions necessitates teams of people who require accommodation, food and entertainment in the local hospitality industry.

The Key West Historic Seaport was honored on May 18, 2018 in recognition of Meritorious Performance in the field of Organizational Achievement at the 2018 Florida Preservation Conference hosted by the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation. It is one of the only historic seaports remaining in Florida, with the other notable port being located at St. Augustine.

Our proposal would allow Key West to improve its historic maritime presence on the Florida stage and continue build our city’s profile among the most notable seaports in the United States.

We respectfully submit this proposal for your review and look forward to your favorable response.

Regards,

Capt. Seth Salzmann

Owner, Sunset Sail Key West

Operator of Schooner Malabar X

Admiral and First Sea Lord of the Conch Republic

MALABAR X

JOHN ALDEN 58FT GAFF SCHOONER 1930/ 2003

Designer	John G Alden
Builder	Hodgdon Bros, East Boothbay, Maine
Date	1930
Length overall	75 ft / 22.86 m
Length deck	58 ft 3 in / 17.75 m
Length waterline	44 ft 0 in / 13.4 m
Beam	14 ft 8 in / 4.7 m
Draft	8 ft 3 in / 2.52 m
Displacement	38 Tonnes
Construction	Carvel teak on bent oak frames
Engine	Yanmar 4LH-HTE 120 kW
Location	Key West, Florida, USA