

dockside chat

There is something uniquely magical about being out on the water in Newport Harbor. You will hear that sentiment echoed among boaters in the area. EMBARK Magazine (EM) caught up with Troy Murphy, former NBA player with multiple teams, including the L.A. Lakers in 2011-2012, for a Dockside Chat to hear what inspired him to pursue boating and what compels him to continue going back out on the water.

EM: Troy, please tell us a little about yourself, your work, your background and where you grew up? If you are not originally from Southern California, what drew you here?

Troy: *I am originally from New Jersey, went to college in the midwest at Notre Dame, and then played in the NBA for 12 years. After the NBA, I went back to finish my education at Columbia and worked for the NBA League Office for a year before venturing out to start an investment advisory firm specializing in sudden wealth*



recipients. Now, I enjoy spending my time traveling, sailing, and learning new things.

EM: Where is home for you now?

Troy: *Summerlin, Nevada, about 20 minutes from the Las Vegas Strip and a 10 minute drive from beautiful Red Rock Canyon Conversation Area.*

EM: When and where did you first start boating?

Troy: *I first started boating during the pandemic at the Newport Beach Sailing School. I was always intrigued by being out on the water, and it seemed like an opportune time to learn to sail. I signed up for the ASA 101 course and absolutely loved it!*

EM: Do you prefer sail over power boats? And, the reason behind that for you?

Troy: *I prefer sail. The connection to nature, the planning, the quiet once you're out there. There is something very special about harnessing the power of the wind to effectively get you to your destination.*

EM: Which boat brand do you own now?

Troy: *I started on a 38 foot Beneteau, and now I'm on a 41 foot Beneteau. They are beautiful boats, and SailTime does such a wonderful job maintaining and caring for their entire fleet. The roller furling main and large swim platform are especially attractive on the 41.*



EM: How often do you go on your boat or take your boat out?

Troy: *I try to get out once a week, depending on my schedule. Living in Nevada, the day will start early in the desert and I'll either take a flight into SNA or drive. Usually I arrive at the harbor*

around 9:30 or 10 am, get things organized on the boat, and head out. I'm usually back by 4 pm and if I flew in that morning, I often take an early evening flight back to Las Vegas. Starting the day with the sun coming up on the Red Rock, spending the day in a totally different environment on the water, and then seeing the lights from the Strip as you land in the evening makes for a long, but fulfilling day.



EM: What do you love about boating in Newport Beach?

Troy: I was initially attracted to the harbor in Newport Beach when I first visited. The different houses right on the water, the Balboa Island Ferry, sailing past the Balboa Fun Zone Ferris Wheel, the restaurants, the Christmas Boat Parade during the holidays, and then finally as you head out

to open water seeing Sea Lions sunning themselves on a buoy really epitomizes the beauty of this wonderful place.

EM: Do you have a favorite boating memory or experience?

Troy: I was out last January. I could see splashing in the water and it was a pod of dolphins swimming towards the boat. There were probably 20 of them and they swam to the sides and directly under the boat. Their swimming was so coordinated, instinctive, and effortless, I was tremendously grateful to be able to experience something so beautiful. I saw dolphins many times while sailing, but the combination of the calm water, the lack of other boats in the area, and the proximity to me made this a memorable experience.

EM: What advice would you give a new or prospective boater who is boat shopping now in search of their perfect vessel?

Troy: I would encourage a new or prospective boater to find your tribe, ask questions, and lean into the experience. None of my friends are boaters, so to have people to learn from and encourage along the way was key for me.

