

Cruising to Port Jefferson

by Capt. Gary P. Joyce

found a Papermate pen that wrote, a fiberglass hammer, a Big Wheel, abandoned dive gear and more), but it's really for winter diving, since the pier over the east jetty is a favorite fishing spot.

What to Do — Land

Hah. Better we should talk about what can't be done in Port Jefferson. PJ is a classic tourist town. You'll find over 30 restaurants catering to every taste and every pocket-book. Want fancy? Try Danford's overlooking the harbor or Pace's Steak House. The Catch is a bit more informal and offers fresh seafood on their outdoor deck across from the ferry terminal. It's a great people-watching spot as well. Like Italian? Check out Ruvo, a short walk up from the harbor. There's also Salsa

Salsa (a burrito bar), a Mickey D's (just west of the harbor for those of you who can't be without), ice cream stores, candy shops, coffeehouses, lots of good bistros (Billie's 1890 Saloon up Main Street a ways has great burgers as well as libations), more restaurants and bars and, well if you can't find something you'd like to eat — and somewhere to eat it — in Port Jefferson, I suggest you head back to the 'round-the-world cruiser of yours and cook up some dehydrated food and call it a day, because you just don't like



Mt. Sinai Harbor mouth, followed by Port Jefferson Harbor. The two points mid-right in the photo are Old Field and Cranes Neck with Smithtown Bay is beyond.

food ... or fun.

Then there's the shopping. Try some local Long Island wines from the large selection offered at the Pindar and Duckwalk Vineyard Wine Shop on Main Street. Like any good tourist town there are plenty of neat little shops all over the area. Make sure you stroll up East Broadway while you're in town, because folks often miss this neat little winding block and all its shops. Ecolin Jewelers is here and offers a selection of nautical jewelry among their many fine watch and jewelry specialties. So

— like the epicurean and libations atmosphere — there's something for everybody in Port Jefferson.

Last but not least is the town's Theatre Three (631-928-9100), a very professional theater troupe and stage. You'll see quality performances and won't be paying Broadway prices. On another cultural level, you'll want to visit the Port Jefferson Historical Society (115 Prospect St.; 631-474-2665; www.portjeffhistorical.org). They offer three historical tours of the town, any of which are well worth taking, even if only to orient yourself to Port Jefferson.

And there you have Port Jefferson - a little bit of New England, a little bit of Americana, a little bit of New York City and a little bit of Key West. Not a bad mix for the cruising boater.

Quick Look

- NOAA Chart 12362
- Port Jefferson Chamber of Commerce, 631-473-1414; www.portjeffchamber.com.
- For a fairly comprehensive list of restaurants, try the chamber or go to Chowbaby.com.
- Wireless Internet node. Go to the Port Jefferson Village Center at Harborfront Park, east side of the harbor on Broadway (631-802-2160).
- Incorporated Village of Port Jefferson: www.portjeff.com.



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117 Main Street, Port Jefferson, NY
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