

# A LINNAEAN CLASSIFICATION OF CARIBBEAN PLEASURE BOATS

Written Jan 2008 in St. Maarten,  
Revised Mar 09 in St. Croix

The town of Simpson Bay is uglifying itself at a great rate (a different blog) but the boats and boat services are astounding. On the Dutch side of St. Maarten (hence the spelling), almost all boats moor/anchor in Simpson Bay and Lagoon. To reach the Lagoon, all boats must pass through a lift bridge (open twice a day and a major traffic jam generator) and it is quite a parade. Here are the three primary categories of cruising and charter boats seen one evening at St. Maarten Yacht Club. These boats were all returning from New Years' at St. Barts.

## FRY

30'-65' sailboat  
\$15K -- \$5 M ??

Note that this boat is at least  
50% longer than our boat. It's  
still fry.



## TVR (Toys of the Very Rich)

70'-150' sailboats and motor yachts  
\$5M -- \$80 M ??

Note: Motorway is 15 feet above water.



## MMTG (More Money Than God)

80' – 400' mega-yachts and mega-sailboats  
\$50M -- \$400M+



In order to enter the lagoon boats must pass thru a 56' wide channel under a bridge. The bridge is raised 3x per day, stopping traffic on the main road for up to 30 minutes at a time. People gather at the St. Maarten Yacht Club every evening to watch the boats come in at the 5:30 time and these pictures were all taken one evening. The crowd is very appreciative of these boats. They cheer for the most beautiful ones →



The biggest MMTG passing through the bridge was from Rotterdam: It cleared the opening by less than 1' on each side and the crew looked visibly relieved when she was through. A view of its stern is shown at right. It was chartered by a European family for Christmas week. If you look closely you can see them on the top two decks.





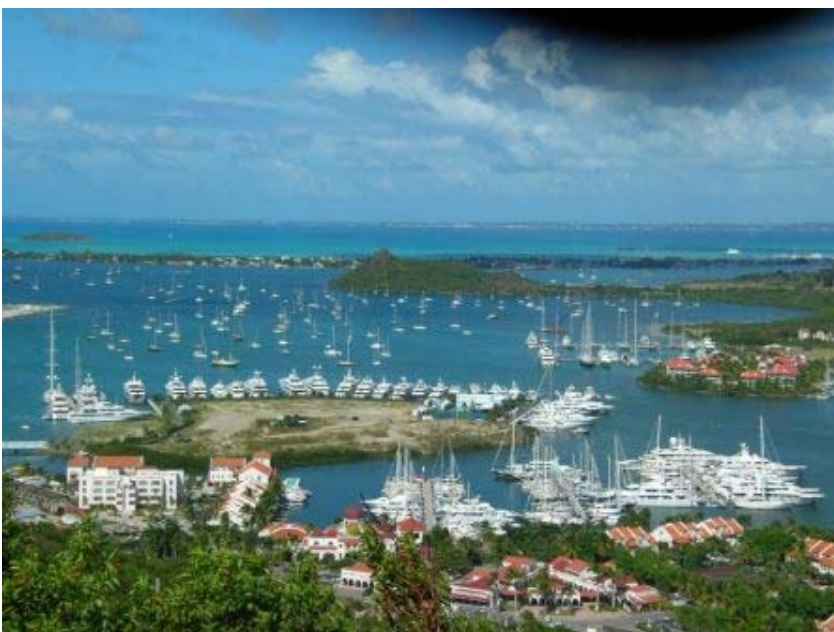
There were some even bigger yachts that just stayed outside in the Bay. The >tender for one such yacht is shown below.



These MMTGs are all mostly chartered out for \$150K - \$250K per week. Apparently most of the owners only use them a few weeks a year and the crew are expected to deliver them for the owners' use anywhere in the world on short notice.

Actually, these mega-yachts look like dreary places to me: except when they are actively out on charter, the identical-tee-shirted crew are working non-stop, washing and polishing every inch of the boat, inside and out. They do a great job – the boats sparkle. Except for the senior crew, most of them are young and good-looking, living an aquatic version of the ski-bum life for a few years: work like dogs by day and party hard at night when they are client-free, which is a surprising amount of time.

TVR and MMTG worlds do not intersect at all with the FRY world—they are served by different marinas. One day I climbed to the top of a hill overlooking Simpson Bay and Lagoon and took pictures. TVRs and MMTGs are boats in foreground, fry are the dots in the background.



Here are the largest sailboat and largest megayacht we have seen in our 18 months in the Caribbean:

## EOS

Owner: Barry Diller. Overall length: 200' (check it on the internet:  
<http://h2uh0.blogspot.com/2008/02/eos-largest-sailing-yacht-in-world.html>)

Docked in Antigua for 2 months. Annual maintenance cost was said to be over \$25M. Has anyone ever seen her under sail??



The varnishing crew  
improving on perfection.  
This kind of maintenance  
went on non-stop.

Eos is very fancy but far more beautiful in my opinion is the schooner Adela, also docked at Antigua and shown racing in Antigua Classic Regatta week. She is 180' long. Owner unknown.





## Rising Sun

For sheer crass megabucks, there is Rising Sun. Owned by David Geffen?? Larry Ellison?? (Check Wikipedia for details) she is 450' long, is reputed to be for sale for \$400M and is **UGLY**.



There are few marina docks that can accommodate her. Here are some of her crew of 45 on the tender. The 40' tender is actually lifted up and garaged in the open hatch shown. Typical ultra megayacht toys carried on board include smaller sailboats (eg 40' or so), submarines, and helicopters.

