



"Boat Girl captures the wonders & joys of growing up just offshore from a town in a way that I haven't ever seen in a book of reading about it."
- Tim Murphy, Editor-at-Large
Coauthor, Fundamentals of Marine Service

BOAT GIRL

A Memoir of Youth, Love & Fiberglass

Melanie Neale

Melanie Sunshine Neale: Telling Your Sailing Story



Set your intention. What do you want to accomplish with your story? Some options are:

- **You want to write a blog to update your friends and family on your adventures**
- **You want to monetize a blog**
- **You want to write magazine articles and maybe make a few bucks**
- **You want to write and publish a book**
- **You want to fund your cruising by writing**
- **You want to write for the joy of it! (NOW WE MOVE THIS TO THE TOP!!!!)**

THE BLOG/SOCIAL MEDIA

- **Who's your audience (applies to anything you're writing!)?**
- **What platform will you use and what is your level of technical competence?**
 - **Instagram if you take great photos**
 - **TikTok if your format is short videos**
 - **YouTube for longer ones**
 - **Facebook for a little bit of everything**
 - **Wordpress or Wix for more traditional blogs**
- **Idea: Find a technically competent friend and either pay them to help or barter...**

BLOGS CONTINUED

- Monetizing the blog – how, do you want to, etc. YouTube requires a certain number of views but is monetized by ads...are you selling a service or a subscription, promoting a product, etc.?
- Getting it read—don't just post things in one place!
- Noteworthy blogs and why I love them:

<https://www.sailingtotem.com/>

www.wavetrain.net

<http://www.dinghydreams.com/>

MAGAZINES

- What do YOU like to read and why?
- Recognize the different audience and subject matter of each one.
- Write first, decide where to send it, then submit.
- Submission guidelines! Submission guidelines! Submission guidelines! Submission guidelines!
- <https://www.cruisingworld.com/cruising-world-guidelines-writers-and-photographers/>

MAGAZINES CONTINUED

- <https://goodoldboat.com/writers-guidelines/>
- <https://southwindsmagazine.com/editorial-guidelines/>
- <http://sailingmagazine.net/flex-32-writers-guidelines.html>
- **What to expect from the editors during the publication process**
- **Why photos are SO important**
- **Pay**

BOOKS

- Know your genre...so important!
- Write, write, write and worry about publishing later!
- It's not easy. It will take a long time and remember that nothing is perfect on the first try.
- Create a writing space on your boat.
- Get your mind right to write.
- Carry a journal

BOOKS CONTINUED

- **Who is an unbiased reader?**
- **Different types of editing**
 - **Developmental**
 - **Copy**
- **Why I'm not worried that your punctuation is wrong.**
- **Structure and organization**
- **Protecting the innocent—or the guilty? What is your obligation?**

BOOKS CONTINUED

- **Submission guidelines**
 - <https://unrulyvoices.com/submissions/>
 - **What to expect during the process**
 - **Doing your own marketing**
 - **How much money you make is directly correlated to your marketing efforts.**
 - **How to approach book stores, etc.**
 - **Author events**

BOOKS CONTINUED

- **Creative Nonfiction...how do you handle the truth?**
- **How much will what you write affect other people?**
- **Are you kind?**
- **What do you hope to accomplish?**
- **Have you said anything in writing that you wouldn't say in person?**

MAKING MONEY

- Realistically, how much money can you expect to make?
- Can you depend on residual income?
- Only 10% of all published authors make over \$10,000 annually.
- Other ways to earn money related to writing
 - Editing
 - Coaching
 - Presentations
 - How can writing as a side hustle help your primary hustle?

OTHER THOUGHTS

- Writing groups and workshops and classes
- Remember that it's supposed to be fun!
- Keep your ego in check. Writing is about how you can help people—not how they can help you.

Thank you!

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You own everything that
happened to you. Tell your
stories. If people wanted you
to write warmly about them,
they should've behaved better.

-Anne Lamott

TheMindsJournal.com

