

NEWS & NOTES

EARTH CLASS MAIL

Whether you're cruising full time or for parts of the year or have dual residences, you won't want to go without the services of Earth Class Mail, a company that provides your snail mail to you online. An Anacortes Trawler Fest attendee told me about the service, and it sounds perfect for cruisers, full-time traveling professionals, and anyone else with a mobile lifestyle.

Here's how it works: Customers forward their postal mail to Earth Class Mail (earthclassmail.com), which is certified by the USPS as a "commercial mail receiving agency." The front and back of the unopened mail is scanned and put into the customer's online mailbox; customers are directed to a secure website, where they view the envelope images and decide whether to recycle, shred, or forward-ship the mail or to have it opened and scanned so they can read it online. There are three service packages available, starting at \$9.95 a month plus a \$25 setup fee.

The company emphasizes that all mail is processed by monitored personnel in a secure facility in Oregon, so your personal and financial information remains secure. You maintain complete control over your mail by checking your Earth Class Mail online account; there's no need to burden neighbors or family members with mail forwarding while you're out living the dream.

Indeed, Earth Class Mail can contribute to a cruiser's peace of mind in more ways than one. It is an environmentally friendly company that's focused on reducing wasted paper—90 percent of customers' mail gets recycled. The "About" page on the company's website provides news write-ups, blogs, and more about this new online mail service, as well as ideas about how to help reduce waste.—N.F.