

Tuesday, December 7, 2010

Sailing!

NanaLizSailing! A lot has happened since the last blog entry. I was invited to Dinner by Nana and Andreas, who left Germany this summer on a sabbatical to sail around the world. Then Liz arrived. We went diving together, and when the high-load blocks arrived a few days later we installed them and went sailing together - finally! Gudrun sails wonderfully. After that some partying was required, at Krasimir's, El Mojo and of course also on Gudrun. We also went to see the Bodyboard World championship at El Confital, but arrived a little late :-p. Now Liz is gone again, and I'm back in my old routine. Fiesta at Krasimir's place. And el MojoCooking! Liz expands her horizon ...diving and climbing the mast. I'm very glad that Gudrun V can finally be sailed. Not everything is complete done yet, for example the final sail with the rigger still has to be completed before I can seal the hole in the deck through which the mast goes. At the moment only a few meters of cling film stand up to the wind and spray. But Domingo is taking part in a regatta in Florida at the moment, so this has to wait another week. Apart from that there are still various pieces that have to be fitted to the mast and deck, the engine has to be serviced yet and I decided to throw out the washing machine and install a cupboard for food instead. The only place I can store food now is in the bilge, and I had bad experiences with that on Vespina. So I will still be busy for another few weeks and not be leaving before Christmas. But I had given up on that dream shortly after the ARC left anyhow. To cross the Atlantic was the only thing I had wanted to do this year, but no personal goal is important enough to cause pain to the ones you love. And this Christmas and New Year's is for the family. I will be celebrating Christmas in Germany with my family and then we all fly to New Zealand for New Year's to celebrate with Liz's family. The first get-together of the two families, yeah! . And just in time before Liz will be joining me on the boat (!) ... after I've crossed the Atlantic. So we're talking about a crossing in January and then time together sailing in the Caribbean from February onward. Will be interesting to see how she likes it. After more than a year apart I'm very much looking forward to spending some time together. Therefore I am very relieved that I can finally sail with Gudrun V, and that that elusive goal - crossing the Atlantic - is getting within reach. The most difficult milestone on the way is reached - the rigging is complete. Having done all that work on Gudrun makes me realize just in what good shape Vespina was when I bought her. I was really lucky there (and Ulrich and Anke as trustworthy and honest as I had hoped). I could have very well been a nasty surprise after reaching the med, and I might still be stuck there getting Vespina ready - in the cold, and with very little sailing experience. Much better to work on the boat where it's warm, and when you know (more or less) what you are doing and what for . So the next big thing is practicing with the new rig. It's a lot more complicated than on Vespina, and it will take some time until I will have the hang of it and be able to operate it efficiently. A whole new world in sailing. A good opportunity to enter that world is an overnight sail to Fuerteventura. A friend of mine, Klaus, will be there for a week and I want to leave Gran Canaria on Wednesday evening to meet up with him. Let's keep the fingers crossed that everything works out fine!

Posted by Axel Busch in Gudrun V at 08:10

Fingers crossed!

Anonymous on Dec 8 2010, 08:00