

Thursday, April 7, 2011

Rescue Diver class started

Yesterday I started my Rescue Diver class. I had prepared for the first session by watching the instruction movie and working through the first chapter of the PADI Rescue Diver Manual. My first diver certification was with CMAS, and I was a little sceptical about the PADI course to begin with. But I have to admit that the material is very well written and compiled. Jeff and Jeff, my instructor and owner of the dive shop is a very experienced, confident and laid back guy and good teacher. I'm the only student in the class, so I have the benefit of his undivided attention. Unless a stingray or the like passes underneath us. Then he always stops to look. He has obviously lost nothing of his enthusiasm for diving and the underwater life since he started diving decades ago. I guess he found his spot. From the book I've learned what factors promote stress before or during a dive, and how it can lead to a diver getting tired or panic. I've learned, in theory, how to assess a situation, approach a diver, and get him to safety. Now it was time to practice it. It went pretty well. Except for the time when Jeff "fell unconscious" face down on the ground in 10m deep water, and I had to get him back up to the surface. As I turned him around his air hose got caught underneath a stone, and his regulator slipped out of his mouth. Which I didn't notice. Then I didn't manage to get him up to the surface and instead just bounced up and down at about 6m. Uups. Fortunately the second attempt worked much better. In the evening we went for a night dive at the wreck Gregory. At night many of the animals that hide underneath the wreck during the day come out, especially lobsters and other critters, and there is so much more to see. In addition the blackness of the water around the little spots of light from our lights make the whole scene (even more) magical. A spanish lobster crab about to look for a new shell to hide in. Check out the evil eyes and spots! Otherwise it's going well too, although Gudrun V seems somehow in a constant state of semi-messiness. We clean, and half an hour later all tables and the cockpit are full of stuff again. Either from repairs or upgrades, or simply from going about our interests (for Liz cooking and writing, for me diving and photography). The reason is that we haven't found the right places for our things yet. Instead of grab-and-use it's search-curse-and-get-frustrated. But we're slowly working our ways out of that by finding places and buying little boxes or racks etc that help us keep stuff organized. The goal is to be always ready to go sailing. At the moment we're about an hour away from that. Installation-wise things are looking good. Yesterday I've taken down the useless wind generator. It was only putting out ten percent of it's rated power amid a lot of noise, and we decided to replace it with a new one. The solar panels are doing a good job and keep the batteries between 50% and 80% charged, and we didn't have to start the engine yet to recharge the batteries. But a cloudy day could change that, and thanks to the trade winds there is so much wind here that with a (working) wind generator we could live pretty carefree electrically. Which is very seducing, especially since the alternative is to constantly remind Liz to conserve energy. I went for the 400W "Silentwind". As the name suggests, it's supposed to be very, uhm, silent. We'll know tonight when the installation is finished. And then I hope to be done for a while. There is still the dread of having to add a holding tank should we decide to go to the US Virgin islands or the mainland. Which gives me nightmares when I think about it. But we can easily skip the USVs on the way to Cuba, and the mainland is a long time away. I think I'll delay the decision until we know for sure that we'll go there.

Posted by Axel Busch in Gudrun V at 12:14

Sounds like you're settling in well - it'll definitely be a lot easier once everything has a home.

I love the night diving pictures
Anonymous on Apr 9 2011, 04:22

the combination couldn't be better Axel picks up best food ever by night-diving-adventures and Liz prepares delicious meals with it....
"OH Happy day"

it's always a pleasure to hear that you (both) enjoy travelling right on your way "finding your spot ?!" ...and I'm curious if Liesbet and Marc will make wedding tasteful to you

kindest regards...:GERD:...
Anonymous on Apr 9 2011, 13:56

Jetzt habt ihr Internet auf dem Boot, dafür schreibt ihr nicht mehr....

Viel Spaß weiterhin!
Anonymous on Apr 13 2011, 11:05

Servus Axel

Es scheint dir ja gut zu gehen. Man hört ja gar nichts mehr von dir/euch.

Hier mal was zu deiner Zerstreung.
Unser Team-Blog:
<http://teameschagore.blogspot.com>

Gruß

Footnote
Anonymous on Apr 13 2011, 13:24