

Sunday, December 20, 2009

SecuritÃfÂ© SecuritÃfÂ© SecuritÃfÂ© ...

... is all I hear on the radio these days. Gale warnings. Reefed mainsail. I've attached the reefing lines permanently to the bottom of the boom. Last night has been the worst yet. 10 Bft wind, a very rough sea even in the harbor here, and temperatures well below zero. Vespina was shaking so violently that I was afraid the mooring lines would break (all six of them) and I got up several times to check them. One had broken last week, as well as two fenders. But this time everything held. Around four in the morning the storm began to weaken and I could finally find some sleep. When I woke up at nine everything was completely quiet, no breeze at all. Today was only the third day after my arrival 1 1/2 weeks ago, that the wind dropped below 7 Bft. Like before I used the chance and spend some hours working on top of the mast, on the rigging, the wind generator and the radar. The radar is still not working, but everything else is ready now. My soldering iron has simply not enough power to heat the wires in the cold & wind. This work will have to wait until I get somewhere warmer and less windy, or until I find a 200 Watt soldering iron. But the radar is not vital. More important is the fact that I could practice putting the reefs into the main sail and setting the storm jib. I have also stowed away all gear securely, and now Vespina and I are finally ready for the sea. But unfortunately the forecast for tomorrow is again very bad: Gale warning, from the SW, and very rough sea. Yep, SW is exactly the direction I need to go. But the temperatures are predicted to rise to 15C, and stay there for a while. This is very good news, because the low temperatures stopped me actually more from working and leaving than the wind. All I need now is a forecast of not much more than 6 Bft for two days, and I can finally leave Port-Saint-Louis. I'm placing my bets on Wednesday.

Posted by Axel Busch in Vespina at 18:44

Wow...sounds like you're getting off to a rough start. 10 Bft isn't far from hurricane force winds. Good luck and hope you can get started off to sea soon.

Anonymous on Dec 21 2009, 08:46

Dude, you're making it hard for me to feel sorry for myself in the freezing Berlin winter. I'm sending you all my good wishes, because I can't send you an xmas present...

Anonymous on Dec 21 2009, 11:33