

Wednesday, February 15. 2012

Video from the haul-out, solar panels

A short video of some of the work done on Gudrun while hauled out. I can definitely say that watching the video is more fun than doing the work ;-):

Thanks to our two trips to Panama I was able to get some 1" stainless steel tubing for the bimini. First trip I ordered it at Abernathy's in Flamenco Marina, and Sunday I picked it up. Uwe came to shore with Gisela and a saw, and I cut the two 6m long tubes into size for transportation. Then we had ice cream, yummy.

Monday morning I picked up the oil cooler at the cargo terminal of Tocumen airport. But the package came with a surprise - a customs inspector. His job was to make sure that the package actually is for the boat, and so I had to hire a taxi right away and drive with him the 1 1/2h to the boat, leaving Liz in Panama to complete her shopping. Incredible. But I got it! Hope to install it later today.

The rest of Monday I spent emptying the lockers and preparing for work on the bimini/solar-panel construction. Tuesday morning at 5:30am I started and at 5pm it was done: Bimini-frame extended to support the weight and the solar panels fastened on top. Then I started running the cables to the charge controllers. Each panel has it's own cable, the 85W panels the 4mm² (AWG12) that came with them, the 135W panels 10mm² (AWG8) left over from installing the wind generator. Today I want to connect the two BlueSky 2000E mppt controllers and finish the installation. Each controller will handle two panels, one the two starboard, and the other the two port panels. This way I hope to eliminate most shading problems, but we'll see. Total output is rated at 430W.

So Tuesday went very well and it looked like I was ahead of time. But then the fridge stopped working again, so there you go. One item off the list, another on it. Boat life. Now our cheese and butter is in the fridge over at Didier's boat.

Posted by Axel Busch in Gudrun V at 04:55