

Wednesday, December 23, 2009

Adventures in the Golfe de Fos

The weather forecast for yesterday read: "S 4 to 6, locational 7. Gusts. Moderate or rough. Locational very rough." Not too bad. But Arthur and Andr f  warned me that "locational" would include our location, the Golfe de Fos, because it opens to the south and is very shallow. But because I've never sailed here, I couldn't help wondering what "very rough" meant exactly. I also believe that it makes sense to learn what Vespina and I can take as early in my journey as possible, and as long as there is still help close by. So I decided to find out . I started the engine and motored first towards the east out of the canal, then keeping clear of the traffic separation scheme I turned directly south past the huge ocean going freighters at anchor, where I wanted to set sail and head east for Marseille. It was indeed rough going directly against the short and steep waves from the beginning. But Vespina handled them very well, and feeling secure I had quite some fun. But as I got more south the waves became longer and higher, and I began to wonder whether turning 90 degrees and having them coming from the side would still be fun, or even save. Moments later a wave stopped me, turned me around, and pushed me almost flat onto the side. Question answered . After four more times I very much doubted that I had stored away everything securely enough, especially the two heavy spare anchors. But it was also obvious that leaving the Golfe de Fos in these conditions would be absolutely impossible. I would have to wait for northerly winds, NW ideally. So I turned around and headed back to where I came from, surfing down the waves this time. Yeah Checking the hold later I was happy to find everything just where I had tied it down, especially the anchors. But I will have to do something with the mast for the generator and radar, it was swinging like crazy in the wind. The southerly winds will prevail over the next few days, so I will have to spent Christmas in the harbor and not at sea, as I had hoped. But there is a chance for NW winds on Friday, which means I can hopefully leave Saturday.

Posted by Axel Busch at 08:57

frohe weihnachten im hafen axel
vielleicht sogar besser als auf see?
speziell bei den windigen verh ltnissen
pass auf dich auf
lg
micha

Anonymous on Dec 24 2009, 05:30

Hallo Axel, sch ne Weihnachten w nsch ich Dir!

Anonymous on Dec 24 2009, 10:04

Hey Axel, Merry Christmas! Lass Dich nicht vom Kahn pusten.
Liebe Gruesse,

Inge

Anonymous on Dec 25 2009, 20:52