

Thursday, February 4, 2010

Bon voyage "Maid of Mettle"

Yesterday morning there was a very (very) light easterly (0 to 5 knots), and Maid of Mettle set sail, no, started the engine, around 11am. Destination: the mainland. I hope they found some wind on the way and managed to get the sails up. But they wanted to take advantage of the calm water, and were ok with motoring all the way if necessary. It is interesting how different the priorities are among sailors. Chris and Caroline are mostly concerned about the wave heights, since they get seasick easily. I don't mind the waves (as long as they let me sail my course at all), but I get bored easily and flapping sails get on my nerves. So I prefer stronger winds, say 3 to 8 Bft. Great fun, plenty of work and you never get bored. Though with more than 6 Bft I prefer not to sail close to the wind if it can be helped. It does get uncomfortable, I'm not that tough. Then there is my friend Rolf, who doesn't mind the conditions or whether he is motoring or sailing, as long as the anchorage at the destination is safe and the beer is cold. And Arthur, who enjoys sailing fast, but is very careful when he plans a trip and wants every aspect covered. Planing a trip with him is like watching an artist while he prepares to paint a masterpiece. So after another look at the weather forecast I decided to stay here and wait some more. It wasn't easy seeing Maid of Mettle leave and stay behind. Especially as the wind picked up a little after noon. But then it turned west again in the afternoon. Then it dropped. Then for a while from the east again. Then no wind. Then rain ... I think it was a good idea to stay. Thinking about my trip so far, I really don't know why I hurried so much at all. It seemed like the right thing at the time. And yes, it was cold and I wanted to get south as fast as possible. But I think it was also because I was still in the same "hurry mode" in which I've been in since I started writing software for other people 15 years ago. And with all the stuff I had planned for my sabbatical I didn't get out of that mode after I left the company. So maybe there is a lesson for life in this for me after all. At least I will try to approach things a little calmer for a while. Even if this will add some more time to the voyage or change the route. For example, should I arrive too late on the Canaries for sailing to the Carribean (hurricane season), then I could simply wait until November or sail to Brazil instead. I've never been to South America before anyway, why not sail there?

Posted by Axel Busch in Vespina at 12:21

you got it, axel! Now you are cruising....
Anonymous on Feb 16 2010, 01:27