

Saturday, April 10. 2010

More muscle than brains

The harbor of Motril. In the background the still snow-covered Sierra Nevada. Vespina at the pier. "Something big" in the commercial harbor of Motril. Yesterday I left Motril to make my way further "as far as possible" towards Gibraltar. I planned to stay closer to the shore, where the wind should come at a slight southerly angle to the land. That way I hoped to be able to sail a more easterly course, and avoid the worst of the waves. The plan worked in so far as that I could sail a course of 260°, as much east as I needed to. I was less lucky with the waves though. The problem was the same as yesterday: neither the autopilot nor the wind-vane could cope once the boat got pushed of course. With a new wave coming in from behind every 4 seconds (I stopped the time), and many of them breaking, that happened quite often. I have some nice footage which I will upload after I've reached Gibraltar. Swell overtaking Vespina. Approaching Fuengirola. Lots of muscle needed yesterday. I can't remember the last time I had to earn my miles so hard. By the time I arrived in Fuengirola my arms hurt so much that I could hardly finish the entry in my log book. All very heroic. But stupid. Had I used my brains instead of my muscles, I might not have had to work so hard. After I arrived here I checked my emails. Roland (Äfâ€"streicher), Jens (Detlefsen) and Thorsten (Braun) had answered to my last post, suggesting that I don't hoist the main sail and simply sail only with the genoa. Moving the center of pressure thus forward will probably not prevent Vespina to get kicked off course given the current swell. But it should prevent her from keeling over and shooting into the wind, which should allow the wind-vane or autopilot to adjust the course again. Roland described in detail how he hadn't managed without a wind-vane at all. Sounds like a plan, thanks a lot my friends! Let's see whether I can put that in effect today, and how far I get. Gibraltar is a little beyond my reach for a day-sail, and after last night I don't need another night-entry in a gale for a while. Originally I wanted to anchor off the coast, but there's no good spot in an east gale. Specifically I recommend not to approach Fuengirola in an east gale as I did. The rollers are madness. But once you are behind the breakwater it is very nice and quiet. Anyway, I hope my sailing gets smarter again quickly. I'm not particularly proud of the last days. Maybe too much of that easy land life made me all soft in the head. I've just checked out at the marina office and am ready to go. The weather forecast says 30kn of wind from the east. Yep, that fits to what I'm seeing here. Oh, I have to leave going out against that horrible swell. Better get the camera ready, that will be "fun"!

Posted by Axel Busch in Vespina at 03:02

Hi Axel,

we're looking forward for your footage of your adventure; in the meanwhile we'll keep our fingers crossed for your way to Gibraltar

Gerd + Marion + die kleinen Käfnige
Anonymous on Apr 10 2010, 08:16

hi axel,

wir drÄ¼cken dir alle daumen, die uns zur verfÄ¼gung stehen.
machs gut - pass auf dich auf

cu
diereuthers
Anonymous on Apr 10 2010, 13:41