

Friday, April 29. 2011

Time flies

Time flies. Over the previous two weeks the weather was mostly cloudy with little to no wind. Accordingly the batteries were being slowly drained. On Monday night the Battery-alarm went off ... 45% capacity. The batteries don't like it when you drain them too much, so in effect you can only use 50-70% of the nominal capacity, depending on the type of battery. Jon, from SY ImagineBut fortunately Tuesday night the wind was back. With a vengeance, up to 35kn, and more than a few boats started dragging their anchors in the night. Our neighbor too, and in the morning he was half a mile further out at sea. I wasn't worried about our anchor, because I had tested it only the day before. And we had nobody in front of us that could drag into us. Unlike John + Sam of Imagine of Falmouth, who got hit on the bow by a boat that dragged past. Apparently the owner wasn't on board and John raced after the boat in his dinghy, broke in through a hatch, started the engine and re-set the anchor. Big surprise for the owner when he returned from his shopping-trip three hours later and his boat wasn't where he had left it. On Wednesday Liz met with Rosi of Aliana to do girly talk and exchange girly movies. Not that we had watched any movies since Liz got here - too busy! Anyway, I dropped of Liz on Aliana and then went shopping for more boat parts. When I returned to Aliana the girls hadn't come back from whatever coffee place they had chosen to grace with their cheerfulness. But Sim was there, and we had a coffee in the cockpit, talking about boat work - boy talk . John, on his RingoThen the radio beeped. John from Ringo had dragged his anchor across half the lagoon in the night, hitting a fishing trawler on the way. He had kept watch since then and asked for help to re-anchor his 40ft catamaran. We went over in the dinghy to help. The situation was a little tricky, because the fishing trawler that he'd hit was only 30m in front of him, and swinging on his mooring from left to right. John was very certain that his anchor was fouled up on the mooring of the trawler, and that an attempt to simply get the chain up would result in another collision. A diver was needed to check on the anchor and unfoul it if necessary. John had the gear and a full tank, but hadn't dived in ten years. Anybody know any divers :-)? I went down to 7m while Sim kept watch in the dinghy and checked on the mooring and anchor. They were clear enough, but I went down another time to tie a buoy to the anchor see we could where it was in relation to that swinging trawler. The ground in the lagoon is mud topped with growth. The chain, a lump of mud and grass, had settled in the mud, and I couldn't reach it. When I attempted to lift the chain a little to get to the anchor a cloud of mud erupted from the ground and expanded quickly all around me. Great. I was reminded of the french sailor who drowned the other day when he wanted to free his anchor out of the mud. His feet got stuck in the mud and he wasn't able to free them before his air ran out. Not a nice death. The red buoy marks the anchorI held on to the chain with one hand, so I wouldn't loose my way. And stayed well clear of the ground with my feet. Visibility in the lagoon is no more than 2m anyway, and with no features on the ground but grass it's very easy to get lost. With a lot of fast traffic on the surface the last thing I wanted was to get lost and having to resurface in the open. I ignored the mud swirling around me as much as possible and continued to tie the line to the chain. When I was done I swam away, following the chain. But I didn't get very far, because the line had gotten entangled in the BCD or bottle. Great. I went up a few meters to get out of the mud cloud and worked slowly on the line. I avoided looking at the air supply, because I knew there wasn't much left and I didn't want to give myself another reason to panic. Ignorance is bliss . I managed to free myself slowly and then went back down on the line to the chain and followed it back to the boat. With the buoy in place we figured out a safe way to get the boat free and half an hour later we had anchored anew. Then I hurried back to Aliana to pick up Liz and get ready for tonight's event - bachelor and bachelorette party for Mark and Liesbet. The night out was fantastic. Lots of drinks, food and dancing. It is a great group here, and we'll miss them when we leave. Liesbet & MarkCheers!hmmmmmmWatering the flowers Follow me! I know where the girls are!We can dance.and sing Thursday morning wasn't too bad. I felt slightly hung over, but had no headache. I got up at seven, worked on the boat until nine and then went to get another load of water. Our consumption is now down to 10-12l per day, thanks to the salt-water pump in the sink and Liz, who very quickly adjusted her habits. She only forgets about the lights and laptop now and then, but I think that is so deeply ingrained that it will be hard to change. It's easier for me to watch out for that. Maybe over time, we'll expect to stay on the boat for a while. The rest of the day Liz and I fiddled more with the boat. Today we have a shark-dive planned for 1pm. We'll see how that goes, I'm a little skeptical about the whole organized thing. I had pumped into four big Caribbean reef-sharks while diving the other day, and that was great. Unfortunately I had left my camera in the boat, because the dive was part of the rescue diver training. Jeff practices search-patterns with me, and the sharks seemed interested but not hungry. Phew . And then tomorrow it's already wedding day! Crazy how time flies.

Posted by Axel Busch in Gudrun V at 05:24

Sunday, April 24. 2011

Last week in St Martin / Final Cut of the movie

Happy easter to all of you! We had our easter celebrations last night on Matt's 50ft Catamaran Mojiomo - niiiiice . The boat's so big and stable that we could even play Jenga, haha. MojiomoBelly-Jenga!MattAxel vs. Mattl Mark's freaking out over the swaying of the tower It's only one week to go until the wedding, after which I, uuuups, I meant *we*, want to leave pretty much right away. Puerto Rico is waiting! But before that I need to clean the hull again, file a replacement screw for the furler, install a water filter, fix the leak in the water tank and figure out a way to stow the dinghy. I would also like to get rid of the main-sheet traveller which runs through the middle of the cockpit and replace it with ... nothing. The deck is wide enough that we can use the double-sheet configuration and use the vang to pull the boom down. That would give us a lot more space in the cockpit and improve the handling dramatically because we don't have to climb over the traveller all the time. But before I start up the grinder I would like to test the new setup, and tge trip to Puerto Rico is going to be that test. So, there is a lot to do! Good that the Dwarf8 movie is done! Friday night I finished the final cut, and Saturday I worked on the score and sound effects. A lot of firsts in that movie for me: screenwriting, choosing locations, props and costumes, directing an actor and crew (Liz), creating an animation in After Effects, and composing a score in Soundtrack Pro. I can see how this could quickly get out of hand on a bigger set, and why you need so many people for a professional production. There is just so much to think about, and so many things to keep in mind, to control and to verify. And you have to get it right, because the audience notices even small mistakes and gets annoyed by them. Especially small mistakes like continuity problems, a cut that is a split-second off the mark, or funny noise in the background. And there is a lot of noise in the background of an anchorage, especially when the anchorage is close to an airport . Anyway, here it is - the final cut: Actually there is another version, too. Because the "client", Beat the Dwarf8 founder, doesn't like the last shot of the pirate on the beach. So I cut two versions of the movie, one for him and one for me - the director's cut . But this is the client's cut. I'm very happy with Harald's acting, the camera, and the edit. The soundtrack ... well. Let's say I'm glad it has a soundtrack. But I definitely need a lot more theory and practice in that department. All together I spent 30 hours on the movie. 3 on writing, 5 on preparations, 7 on shooting, 5 on editing, 3 on titles and animation, and 7 on sound and scoring. Liz and Harald spent about 12 hours each. 50 more of those little videos, with increasing amount of actors, and I might be ready for my first feature film. Maybe. That would be sooo cool. Funding might be a problem though ...

Posted by Axel Busch in Gudrun V at 10:20

Friday, April 22. 2011

Of Divers, Dwarfs and Pirates.

A pink dawn. The weather has been exceptional over the last week. Sunny, very few clouds, little swell, and a full moon at night. "Just like Stuttgart", a friend of mine would say. Perfect conditions for completing my rescue diver class. It was good fun, and very educational. I'm glad I did the training, because I believe it raised my awareness for little things that sometimes become a big problem. The best emergency 'response' is to avoid an emergency from happening at all, right. Interestingly I have now completed every step of my formal diver training with a different school of the three biggest organizations - CMAS (Open Water Diver), SSI (Advanced Diver), and now PADI (Rescue Diver). So, is there a big difference? Not that I've noticed. Like in all other sports it's the instructor/trainer that makes the difference, and not what club name is written on his badge. And I think I was very lucky with my instructors. Thanks a lot Christian, Isaac, Orvil and Jeff! A Dwarf8 movie in the making. Another thing for which the weather was perfect was movie making. Ever since I've met the Dwarf8 team in Tarifa, I wanted to make a Dwarf8 movie. Not that Antonio and Beat need a movie from a fledgling amateur video maker like me. But they'd love it, and I'd love making it. And when Harald arrived in St. Martin and I saw him speeding in his dinghy I thought - here's my perfect Pirate! And perfect Dwarf too. Hmmmm ... Dwarfs and Pirates ... shouldn't be too hard to make something out of that. So I thought up a script and refined it with the help of Liz and Harald. Then we rummaged through our lockers for some props and costumes, charged the cameras, cleaned the dinghies and ... action! It took two afternoons to shoot the 45 scenes, and one night to edit a rough cut of 3 minutes. I was a little apprehensive of how it would go, because I've never directed before. Fortunately Liz and Harald were as patient as they were enthusiastic, and it looks like we don't have to re-shoot any of the scenes. Which is just as well, because Harald is leaving tomorrow. Here is a low-resolution version of the rough cut: I'm quite happy with the result so far. But there is still a lot of unexploited potential, and it will take a few more days before I'll be done fine-tuning the edit and sweetening the color. And of course creating a soundtrack, because it makes such a big difference. Good that most of the work on the boat is done and the wedding is still a week away.

Posted by Axel Busch in Gudrun V at 10:16

Monday, April 18. 2011

Dinner on Florimell

Harald's catamaran Florimell and Gudrun are anchored so close together that the ancient communication technology of whistling (to make a call) and talking (to transport the message) was enough to establish that dinner would be served on Florimell tonight. The second whistle announced that dinner was ready. The third reminded me of my mum - "hurry up, dinner's getting cold". But thanks to a freshly cleaned dinghy hull it took us no more than a heartbeat (or two) to cross the 20m gap between the two boats. There is the art of creating a truly sensational dish from a wide range of selected ingredients. And there is the other art of creating a truly satisfying dish from whatever could be found in the kitchen at a given time. Liz is on her way to mastering the first, but Harald is the jedi lord of the latter. "Noodles a lÃfÃj Florimell" were a big success, especially with my hungry stomach after three swims today and hauling the dinghy onto the beach to clean the hull from weed and barnacles (I wish I could do the same with Gudrun). Another big success were Harald's stories. Here's the prototype of all adventurers. Indiana Jones could sign up for lessons. Do you know what the guy's doing to relax at home? Practicing with the ice hockey club three times a week. At age 65, crazy. All people I know stop playing volleyball long before that age, and that's not exactly a contact sport. Getting to know people like Harald (or Peter, Hermann, Tony, Antonio, Sepp ...) make the whole sailing trip so much more worthwhile. You just don't meet those types at home, or you would never get to talk so much. Meeting within the close community of an anchorage opens the way for an easy friendship across the generations. And it also opens up a whole new universe of possibilities for the future. Age as a handicap? Think again! Smutje HaraldNoodles a lÃfÃj FlorimellDigg in!The biggest anchor-light in the world ^^solar system.

Posted by Axel Busch in Gudrun V at 15:59

Cocktails and plans

The rainy weather is gone again, and with it the fever that had a hold on me for the last two days. Hurray! Fortunately I am only very rarely sick, and never more than a few days. But when I am, I hate it. One day of inactivity in bed and I feel like I'm going nuts and am about to fall into depression. But Liz cared for me lovingly (and didn't mind my mood changes) and that helped a lot. A friend of mine is going through chemo therapy at the moment, and I can't begin to imagine how bad she must feel after months and months. All the best, Marilyn! Gudrun with awning. Protection from sun and rainBut Saturday I felt much better again and could continue work on Gudrun and Florimell, Haralds boat. We finished the work on his Furler, and then I fixed my Furler, set up the new awning (tent-like contraption for sun protection), and topped-up the gas on the fridge which had stopped cooling (there must be a tiny, tiny leak). Another cruiser, Robert aka "the wifi man", showed me how to do it and will get me some gauges and a gas bottle so I can do it myself in the future. Great, another skill picked up on the way. In the evening Liesbet and Mark threw a little cocktail-tasting party to figure out what to serve on their wedding celebration in two weeks, and we were invited. Liz baked chocolate-chip cookies, which were very well received (the ones that survived the dangerous journey in my vicinity). The party ended with a arm-wrestle competition between Denise and Samantha. Great fun! Irie with visiting DinghiesMark and LiesbetRosie and John mixing CocktailsBattle of the titans Sunday started out a little lazy, until Harald came over. The day before I had told him the outline of a movie which I want to shoot with him, and he was all excited and impatient to start working on the script together. Liz joined us and we sat in the shade of the new awning and had breakfast while bouncing ideas around. Then we wrote down scene after scene on index-cards together with a little drawing and arranged them into a time-line. After that we anchored Harald's Catamaran Florimell next to Gudrun, and then went for a swim and workout on the beach. A perfect Sunday! It is common among sailors to have a look at each other's boats to share ideas and find maybe a better way to do things. It is a prime example of how it is often easier to have a good solution when you're looking at a problem from the outside. Actually, most of the time you don't even realize that there is a problem or there could be a better way to do things. When I worked with Harald on his boat I had a good idea regarding his bowsprit. And when he saw me climbing over and under the obstacle course that's my racing-cockpit and the contraption at the back (davids and solar panels), which I've inherited from the previous owner, he had some incredible good advice for me. Other people had given me advice as well, but Harald's ideas differ by providing maximum impact for minimum money. Truly elegant. 20 years of experience living on boats, and an artists eye for details make a difference. I wished I had had his advice when Gudrun was on the boatyard in Las Palmas. Now's not the time to start a(nother) big project. I've worked on the boat since I got her in July last year, and am finally getting to a state where I don't have to take the toolbox out of the locker every day and we can finish settling in. So I decided to keep his ideas in mind for the next time Gudrun is on the dry for longer. Which will be when the missing holding tank is catching up with us. Which will probably be in ... New Zealand. Uuuuuups . Haven't I mentioned that yet? The planned route has changed. We will not sail back to Europe but try to go on into the Pacific and make it to Liz' home land.

Blog Export: S/V Gudrun V, <http://www.gudrunv.com/>

Posted by Axel Busch in Gudrun V at 09:31

Friday, April 15. 2011

Where's the sun?

Harald buying a "Wirie" from MarkA few days ago Harald arrived with his Catamaran. I met him in Las Palmas in November, and was happy to see the always cheerful man again. Yesterday I helped him to replace his broken genoa furler. Unfortunately we dropped a plate into the sea during the installation of the furler and Harald developed a back-ache. Because Harald was out of action I dived for the plate, and successfully employed the newly learned search-patterns to find the plate. But I caught a cold a few days ago, and the search at only 3m took all the strength out of me. Then we sat there with the pieces of the furler in our hands. Harald bent over at a funny angle, and I sneezing and coughing. And we laughed . Later I brought him Diclofenac, a food package which Liz had compiled, and DVDs. I'm afraid he will be stuck on his boat until his back is better. My brother told me that it looks like there will be a lot of surplus nuclear power plants in Germany. I'm not a fan of them myself, and neither do I like burning fossils. But having had only lots of rain over the last few days, with little sun and practically no wind, I can tell a story of how alternative energy sources are not so great either. At least until the storage technology is much more advanced. Let's keep the fingers crossed that the sun comes out today, or I'll have to run the engine after all.

Posted by Axel Busch in Gudrun V at 01:41

Wednesday, April 13. 2011

This and that

AntikiEclipseNot much has happened during the last week, and I fear that it will not be before we leave St. Martin and sail to Puerto Rico that there will be anything interesting to report from Gudrun. Island life runs its course around us, and boats come and go. One of the boats to come last week was the An-Tiki, a raft which has left the Canary Islands together with me in early February. And one of the boats to leave was the Eclipse of Mr. Abramovich, though it was back only hours later. Looks like a test run for the biggest private yacht in the world, it has been said the boat is up for charter now. So in case a raft doesn't appeal to you, grab some of those millions from your sugar bowl, jump into your helicopter, and arrange a landing on one of her two heli pads. Getting water, 100l at a time. No, we don't need no help. Meanwhile we are busy with little things. Or with bigger things like filling up the water tanks. Though after the installation of a salt-water pump in the galley the fresh-water consumption has gone down significantly. But we have to be careful to rinse the cutlery well with fresh water, or otherwise it starts to rust quickly. Usually the Dinghy-runs are quite fun. Unless we run out of fuel like last Saturday. Then it's "all hands to the oars!", which is especially fun when the hands are attached to a female body, as you can see on the picture. Though credit to the other sailors - three of the four boats that passed us offered help. But we were adamant in our shame and took turns for an hour rowing to the gas station. More skilled rowers would probably have done it in a couple of minutes. Mounting the new windgeneratorElectricity is still a concern. The two solar panels provide just enough power to run the fridge, two laptops, the stereo, and charge the cameras - on a sunny day. When it's cloudy the output is not enough, and the batteries are slowly drained. After I exchanged the Rutland Windgenerator for the Silentwind the situation improved. The Silentwind is more silent (indeed!) and produces more electricity at lower wind speeds, and we gained every day 10 to 20 Ah of charge. Unfortunately not for very long, because two days after I installed the Silentwind the wind dropped to less than 10kn and has stayed there since. And for the last two days it was cloudy and rained a lot, and the batteries are draining fast. But there will be sunny & windy days again, I'm sure, and I have hope that with our current setup we won't have to run the engine to charge the batteries. And of course there is a good side to little wind too. The swell is down and the boat doesn't roll so much anymore (only a little). I could finally take down the genoa and can now investigate why it takes so much force to furl or unfurl the sail. The beach in front of the dive shop. Other than that I am still busy with the Rescue Diver course, and almost every evening there is a social call to follow, either on a boat or a bar. We like it and enjoy hearing the stories and experiences of others. But between the morning exercises, diving, running errands, doing stuff on the boat and being social in the evenings there remains precious little time for our interests. So not much has happened in terms of photography, video or writing. Sunset on board of Sim's and Rosie's "Aliana" Sunset in La Bamba Beach Bar Post-sunset Burgers!

Posted by Axel Busch in Gudrun V at 19:30

Thursday, April 7, 2011

Rescue Diver class started

Yesterday I started my Rescue Diver class. I had prepared for the first session by watching the instruction movie and working through the first chapter of the PADI Rescue Diver Manual. My first diver certification was with CMAS, and I was a little sceptical about the PADI course to begin with. But I have to admit that the material is very well written and compiled. Jeff And Jeff, my instructor and owner of the dive shop is a very experienced, confident and laid back guy and good teacher. I'm the only student in the class, so I have the benefit of his undivided attention. Unless a stingray or the like passes underneath us. Then he always stops to look. He has obviously lost nothing of his enthusiasm for diving and the underwater life since he started diving decades ago. I guess he found his spot. From the book I've learned what factors promote stress before or during a dive, and how it can lead to a diver getting tired or panic. I've learned, in theory, how to assess a situation, approach a diver, and get him to safety. Now it was time to practice it. It went pretty well. Except for the time when Jeff "fell unconscious" face down on the ground in 10m deep water, and I had to get him back up to the surface. As I turned him around his air hose got caught underneath a stone, and his regulator slipped out of his mouth. Which I didn't notice. Then I didn't manage to get him up to the surface and instead just bounced up and down at about 6m. Uups. Fortunately the second attempt worked much better. In the evening we went for a night dive at the wreck Gregory. At night many of the animals that hide underneath the wreck during the day come out, especially lobsters and other critters, and there is so much more to see. In addition the blackness of the water around the little spots of light from our lights make the whole scene (even more) magical. A spanish lobsterA crab about to look for a new shell to hide in. Check out the evil eyes and spots! Otherwise it's going well too, although Gudrun V seems somehow in a constant state of semi-messiness. We clean, and half an hour later all tables and the cockpit are full of stuff again. Either from repairs or upgrades, or simply from going about our interests (for Liz cooking and writing, for me diving and photography). The reason is that we haven't found the right places for our things yet. Instead of grab-and-use it's search-curse-and-get-frustrated. But we're slowly working our ways out of that by finding places and buying little boxes or racks etc that help us keep stuff organized. The goal is to be always ready to go sailing. At the moment we're about an hour away from that. Installation-wise things are looking good. Yesterday I've taken down the useless wind generator. It was only putting out ten percent of it's rated power amid a lot of noise, and we decided to replace it with a new one. The solar panels are doing a good job and keep the batteries between 50% and 80% charged, and we didn't have to start the engine yet to recharge the batteries. But a cloudy day could change that, and thanks to the trade winds there is so much wind here that with a (working) wind generator we could live pretty carefree electrically. Which is very seducing, especially since the alternative is to constantly remind Liz to conserve energy. I went for the 400W "Silentwind". As the name suggests, it's supposed to be very, uhm, silent. We'll know tonight when the installation is finished. And then I hope to be done for a while. There is still the dread of having to add a holding tank should we decide to go to the US Virgin islands or the mainland. Which gives me nightmares when I think about it. But we can easily skip the USVs on the way to Cuba, and the mainland is a long time away. I think I'll delay the decision until we know for sure that we'll go there.

Posted by Axel Busch in Gudrun V at 12:14

Monday, April 4, 2011

Diving, Internet and a Wedding

No, not our wedding . On the 30th of April Liesbet and Marc of SY Irie, new friends of ours, are having a wedding party here on the island. We are invited, and this morning we decided to attend. We need at least another week to get set up anyway, and it would be sad to leave shortly before the party. So we'll stay in the vicinity and probably explore some other anchorages on the french side. Although we like it very much where we are at the moment. There are very few boats in the direct vicinity, most of them are anchored on the east end of the bay, close to the resorts, where the atlantic swell is less noticeable. But we like our current spot better because the beach is close and very clean and there is comparative privacy because of the few boats, and less traffic. And fortunately Gudrun V doesn't rock as much as other monohulls, and Liz doesn't mind the movement. And through a lucky incident we even have internet on the boat now! After returning from Saba yesterday I had a coffee at a little cafe next to the ferry terminal while waiting for Liz to get the Dinghy from the Dinghy dock (she's an expert dinghy driver now). The unsuspecting lady at the cafe gave me her internet access code for the network of the local resort. Not knowing that I can pick it up from the boat as well with the help of the awesome Wirie, incidentally manufactured and sold by above mentioned Marc. The trip to Saba island yesterday was wonderful. The ride with the catamaran ferry wasn't very gentle but fast, and it covered the 45km in a little less than an hour. At the dock we were picked up by Mike, who is probably the oldest dive guide in the Caribbean. And damn cool, a real character. We did two dives, and as you can see from the pictures we had a wonderful time. Because we will be here a little while longer I decided that I might as well use the time and advance my dive knowledge. Especially since Liz took to liking diving too, and I want to make sure I can support her underwater as well as on the boat. So today I signed up for a Rescue Diver class with Ocean Explorers. Luciana and Jeff, who own the dive shop, are very nice. Jeff is also a enthusiastic photographer and keeps a weekly video dive blog on his website.

Posted by Axel Busch in Gudrun V at 11:09

Saturday, April 2, 2011

A different perspective

I just read Liz' blog about her experience on board and cracked up laughing. Partly because it's just good, funny writing. But also because she sees things from an angle that comes as a total surprise to me. Surprises are always good for a laugh. But for me that also means that the learning starts all over again. My experience as a single-handed sailor is worth little when it comes to couple dynamics on the boat. Anyway, I have permission to post the link. Check it out for yourself: <http://straightedge.wordpress.com/>. George, Matt: Don't worry, she'll keep me grounded. It's so interesting reading Liz blog. Which comes as a total surprise, because we talk so much. Liz is a big fan of talking things through. Sometimes even several times. She says it's her Malaysian heritage, where nothing is really fixed until it's kinda happened, so you always have to re-confirm whether things are still what they were a few days (minutes?) ago. Whereas for me whatever you agreed upon "naturally" doesn't change until you bring it up again to modify or cancel it. The only way to reconcile both mentalities is to talk a lot. Which is just fine, especially because it's always funny. But still, despite living with Liz and all the talking, more than half of the things in the blog are as much news to me as they are to you. Amazing. Hilarious! This is going to be a great time together on the boat.

Posted by Axel Busch in Gudrun V at 20:49

Friday, April 1. 2011

Two weeks together

How can you not love that girl? It's now two weeks that Liz and I am together on the boat. We had lived together before, but since Liz always had her own apartment and I had mine it was more like sleep-overs. And now we are together on a small boat with only a curtain between cabin and forepeak (where we sleep), and a folding door to the bathroom. Brown pelican Liz was very smart about coming here. She says she didn't think about it too much and consequently came with little expectations. But she's never been the outdoors-type, so moving from the center of Berlin to an anchorage in the Caribbean is a big lifestyle change for her. No friends, no internet, no hot shower, no freezer, a fridge in a cramped kitchen, and always the need to limit the consumption of water and electricity. And no work. It's very easy to feel uncomfortable, even guilty, about not working. Especially when all your friends are hard at work, and you are still connected through email and facebook and share news and pictures. Of course they are jealous, who wouldn't be. In this moving on a boat to live there is very different from going on a sailing vacation. You are aware that in a way you leave the society you lived in all your life, and of course you quickly ask yourself "and now what?". Liz, Liesbeth and Rosie When you actually get around to thinking about it, because life on the boat is surprisingly busy. Part of it is just "normal life": Shopping, cooking, eating, only everything takes longer (including sleeping). Then we are still in the process of making a home for the two of us, which means there are many things to buy, throw out, organize, rearrange, clean etc. Other things that fill the day are very peculiar to this lifestyle: the morning swim, the workout at the beach, boat repairs, and a surprisingly active social scene. Every second day you have to go out to this or that place to meet and talk. And like in any social circle there are rules to be observed. One of the most important here is the the happy hour rule. Happy hour is usually from five to six, and when you miss it you get told off by your friends for being too rich. It's such a funny life. The main ingredients for making it a happy one seem to be: • do not to take things too seriously (especially yourself) • be patient with the world (there are lots of opportunities to practice that) • be accepting of other people (everybody has his own reasons, ways, and deamons). And then there is diving! Last Monday I went just outside the anchorage, and this Sunday Liz and I are going to take the ferry to Saba, which is supposed to be breathtaking. Glasseye fish (I think) Turtle (pretty sure) Lobster and "Al", my buddy for the dive

Posted by Axel Busch in Gudrun V at 17:05