

Mahina Refit and Cruising 2006

Good Day to you.

I hope that everything with you is fine and that life is treating you and your family well.

Finally News from me. First things first, make note that my email address has changed to the above; eleandro@mahinacharters.com I do apologies for not being in communication with you but been really busy with my own life, doing a major refit in Trinidad on my 37 sailing yacht, Mahina. As most probably u know, I left Lolita, the 56ft yacht i worked on for two and a half years in August last year. Since then and the begining of the year i tore the boat apart and rebuilt it. Mahina hadn't sailed for ten years until i bought her and sailed down to Trinidad last April. Structure wise she is sound, but the rest needed major loving.

The following was done:

- * Thoughtout the boat, all bigles and lockers have been dismantled from wiring, plumbing and equipment. Leaks were repaired, sanded, painted and reinstalled and modified most of the equipment. All through-hole valves were replaced.
- * Engine was taken out, painted the engine room and put back in. Seals in the gearbox were replaced and a new cutlass bearing fitted on the shaft. Diesel tanks cleaned and a water heater was installed.
- * The teak deck was stripped, sanded, regrooved the seams and caulked. All hardware fittings back in.
- * Rig was pulled out, dismantled, painted, changed the standing and running rigging, new (second hand) furler and Traveller fitted. All chainplates removed, inspected and reassembled.
- * In the Navigation Station, new panel was designed with new wiring together with new GPS, Vhf and of course a stereo.
- * In the head (toilet), was modified for more space.
- * Water tanks were hauled and cleaned.
- * A new Windlass installed.
- * Fridge equipment was moved from the Gas locker to underneath the Galley sink.
- * Bottom was in Ok condition and just been antifouled.
- * Autopilot installed.

Anyways, seems easy to write all that, but it involved major work, especially that i done all the work myself. My father did come for a month helping me out big time. That was a great experience, not just from the work point of view, but also for the company and father/son relationship. My best friend from home, Pierre and his family RoseMarie and their 5 year old daughter Noemi, gave me great hand getting Mahina launched and moving. It was on New Years Eve that i let go the lines in the Yard and set sail to a couple of islands close by in Trini. Spent 3 days commissioning the boat before leaving together up North, Destination Antigua, stopping in many islands all the way up. Thank you Dad, family Azzopardi.

The Trip up was great, although the weather was never favourable. Wind was always on the nose and blowing hard and raining every day. But Mahina performed well and we had a great time together. Lots of Sushi. Fishing was great. Basically we sailed from Trinidad to Grenada, most of the Grenadines islands, St. Lucia, Dominica, Les Saintes, Through River Salee in Guadeloupe, and to Antigua. Did a total of 450Nm. Myself, i spent alot of the time finishing projects, making the boat more functional.

From Antigua i left 3 weeks ago and solo sailed to St. Maarten. Been since finishing some major jobs and maintaining others. At present, as i write, i am having a weekend cruise in St.Martin with friends. Now is time to acutally work for some dollars and will be helping Lolita getting ready for Heineken Regatta, here in St. Maarten which will be held in the beginging of March. After that i do not know what i will be doing. Mahina still needs more work and this will never stop. But the plan is as following:

I need to decide were i am gonna leave Mahina for the coming season. Because of all the Hurricanes, i 'd love to go back to Trinidad, but might query around and see if i find a sheltered place around this North area., just to have the boat closer. As from April i am in search of a full time job on these crewed yachts or anything interesting. So i will work all throught the summer and then back here in the caribbean to pick up Mahina, hopingto have a couple of charters lined up. In the mean time i will be getting her ready for the next big Mission in April 2007; sailing across the Atlantic to the Azores, Lisbon and down to Malta.

My Cell No: here is + ..., calls are always welcome and makes me fell GOOD:)

P.s. If you know of any Jobs please let me know. AND MAKE NOTE THAT MY EMAIL ADDRESS HAS CHANAGED TO eleandro@mahinacharters.com. Please update your address book.

See attached Photo too.

Take Care

Love and Peace

Eleandro and Mahina

St. Martin WI