

It's been awhile since most of you know what's happening in my life. Maybe the last thing most of you remember is me crossing the Atlantic solo on Mahina in April 2007 ME TOO.

Just received a massive email from a close friend of mine, and she is absolutely right in saying that in all my previous newsletter ... " I remember also feeling that your style [of writing] was distinctly mechanical with little insight of your emotions".

The Atlantic trip!! Five full years I wanted to do it and solo too, let along with your own vessel and the only personal belonging in life. It's the second biggest move in my life I always like to say, first was quitting my Dutch girlfriend to go traveling on my own and leaving the island of Malta to an unknown beautiful world, 10 years ago!!!

After the trip, I, of course, felt happy, changed and not proud, of my achievement. Apart from the sailing point of it, learnt a lot or I rather say got more confused and puzzled about my living. Many might understand, others might not, that, the solitude out there on a tiny yacht, sailing to an eastward course in a massive ocean, makes you feel so small, un-important therefore free and amazingly happy, that such an experience can't be felt or described in any written form. It's all in my heart, brain and Mahina. Now a year and a half later, I am feeling it harder and missing it all.

Since my lonely, wicked voyage, I have been working constantly from one job to another, Med, Caribbean, States and even Sydney Hobart. Not always in perfect company environment unfortunately, am a big believer that everybody is different, but always fun for sure and I do apologies if feelings were felt between us, especially if you are one yourself reading this letter !! Between jobs I have sent a total of 3 months working on Mahina and things are moving ahead.

Having Mahina on the hard feels like having a bypass operation through your heart. My home is under refit, for the good, but restrictions, time and money keeps me back from enjoying her afloat and sailing. My plans for Mahina are huge and now is the time to get her organized but, with the money aspect, time does not go faster. I am very lucky to have a skillful, determined father to help me out in borrowing his garage, as more than three quarters of Mahina is in it, borrow his tools, knowledge and help, plus accommodation because that's where I am staying when I'm home ... Cheap ☺. Ta DAD.

Since Mahina been on the hard I have finished the front part, head and Vberth; Chain plates leaking problems, spray painted some white in the interior, keel off, corroded keel steel structure off and replaced, mast totally stripped to a stick, spray painted, modified and rebuilt, cylinder off engine, gearbox and shaft overhaul and an installation of a 5kw Single engine diesel generator. Sorry for going mechanical again but I can't help it. Owing a boat and rebuilding it is like car restoring, where not even if you're a millionaire, you would still do the work yourself to feel the "pride" about every single effort put on every detail. This is very time consuming, requires patience and nerve wrecking sometimes but worth it ... I think.

At this point where do I stand? Determined and alive ... if you may ask me, cause till a few weeks ago I wasn't. Things, personal situations and time, were keeping me back in life and not being myself at all. I'd thank does special inspirational friends, through whom I found the challenge to keep focusing on my future dream and get it done no matter how hard it is, selfish as it sounds, how many people I'm

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disappointing doing so and for those that are happy for me. Life is too beautiful to be sad and the world is a life time to explore, why wait.

Its end of October, just finished an eventful Middle Sea race, and busy till January I hope. Before returning to Mahina again and splash her in the water as soon as the season changes next year, were the charters begin. Based out of Malta for day sails, overnights, weekends and long trips such as Sicily, Greece, Turkey and Croatia are all on the menu. Most important of all is that I would once again be living back home afloat... Home sweet home.

Future ambition is to pay off the boat, live on it, earning \$\$ before heading West towards the Amazon, then south to Cape Horn in 2 years time. Single handed or in company of a dog, friends or soul mate I am off, hopefully maybe all together.

Still looking for freelance work ...

Hope I find you well ...

Salamaleku

Sahha

Eleandro

Sy Mahina

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