

Situation Report 001; 2012-04-12

My crew for this cruise, Cindy, arrived in Toronto on April 2 and since then we both have been working hard to get the boat ready.

So far, we have:

- installed new circuit breaker panels for all 12 volt DC circuits;
- mounted an Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) on board;
- replaced the older ICOM M-601 Very High Frequency / Radio Telephone (VHF/RT) with the newer M-604 model and incorporated it into the ship's data network circuitry;
- removed the standing rigging from the mast; worked with a rigger on specifications for a new set of rigging, and placed an order for the rig;
- ordered a new main sail from the sail maker;
- purchased a new Furlex 308-15 roller furling unit for the head sails. This will be installed along with the new standing rigging when the mast is stepped;
- removed the rudder and propeller shaft from the vessel and removed a worn out cutless bearing. The latter will be replaced in the next few days and the shaft and rudder re-installed;
- installed the electrical circuits to power a new electrically driven bilge pump and begun the installation of the pump itself;
- ordered, received, and installed new berth cushions in the main saloon; and
- begun construction of a wood frame to hold the mast on deck while we transit the New York State Canal system.

Progress is slow and there is still much work to be done, but we're getting there.

Broadly speaking, the plan is to rig Her in the second week of May and conduct sea trials to ensure all of the new and upgraded equipment is functioning correctly. Then, She will be de-rigged, the mast un-stepped and stowed on deck, and we will head across Lake Ontario for Oswego where we will clear into the U.S. and enter the New York State Canal system for a transit to the Hudson River.

On the Hudson River, we will re-step the mast and sail down river to New York City. From there, we'll head north and east to New England and Maine with a return to New York City planned for mid-September.

Once again, Her bow will rise clear of mother sea in a sunburst cloud of spray.

I'll be sending out photo illustrated journal entries as I did during my last cruise. I've also created a Twitter account for the vessel, @saorsaii, and will try that means of staying in touch. There's a follow-me on Twitter button on the web site that will hook you into that.