

## **Sailing Greece- Cyclades-September-2013**

"We consulted a nice objective person that manages a web-site :

<http://sailingissues.com>

He offered us a list of charter companies in Greece, without any private interested, just by his experience and recommendation he got from other people.

We thank him, and recommend his web-site and consultancy.

Farewell!

Israel Ben Efraim"

### **Friday, 6/9/2013**

I surf, for now, only at the internet. I am little worried because of the weather forecast. Strong winds are expected to blow on Sunday and Monday. We will have to plan carefully for these 2 days.

18:30

After consulting with our charter company, we decided to change course, and Start at Alimos and sail to Poros.

### **Saturday, 7/9/2013**

We are on the plane heading to Athens. The plan is to get by bus to Alimos marina. The way from airport to the marina was fast and easy by bus X95. Only 2 Euro per capita.

Already at this early point, we were exposed to the Greek huge hospitality. We in Israel are used to this character, but even though we were amazed by the warmth and good will to help. While waiting to staff (we got there earlier then set), nice people from another charter company invited us to seat at their offices garden, gave us cold water, and called the office to inform that we are waiting.

A quick and effective check in and provision buy, and right out to sea. The weather was cloudy and few out of season raindrops lead us to an ongoing mood, and we found ourselves on a direct course to Poros, instead of having a first stop at Aigina.

The kids (18, 20, 24 year old) started complaining that it is a pity we changed our plan, and they prefer the Cyclades. We couldn't ignore them and decided to go for it.



### **Monday, 8/9/2013**

We sailed in high wind and turbulent waters. The younger crewmembers felt bad, but nobody complained. Each one find his own way to cope with the situation.

We got to Serifos late afternoon. mooring stern-to, we hadn't much success with the anchoring. More than 10 years without sailing is a long time, and many drillings were lost. It seems that it is not bike riding. We got help from a nice German person that was so polite that he asked; "May I please help you", and after we finished he thanked us for letting him to help.

We ate dinner at an excellent small tavern. Located, not on the quay, but in a small alley. Simple excellent food.

The wind got at night to about 25-30 nm/h, all boats hit the quay. I slept all these days at the pilot bench, suffered that night the wind gusts that were very noisy.

## **Tuesday, 9/9/2013**

The wind is still high. Forecast says that it will come down afternoon. The youngsters take the opportunity to take the Dinghy down to the water and sail to the other side of the bay. A rope tangled with the propeller hold them until noon. Meanwhile, the elder staff arranged the boat and planed ahead.

As the forecast said it is going to be better afternoon, we decided to go for a night sail to Paros. We got out of the bay about 18:00 with winds of 25 nm/h.

## **Wednesday, 10/9/2013**

The wind and more badly, the sea waves got higher and higher. We found ourselves, the two elderly staff members, straggling with a sea of 3m' waves. The waves filled the cockpit and us with salty cold water. We didn't take with us any storm coat. That for itself wasn't so bad, but now I would like to share a huge insight I had;

We put our faith in the modern gadgets-- Too much. We had a smart phone, that was with us up at the cockpit. It was quite convenient. We didn't look at the maps or the GPS, down at the planning desk. The smartphone got down to the cabin with his owner. We remained with nothing, but we were calm, knowing that we still have many hours before meeting land. And here is the big mistake. We learned (1994) to work with maps and sextant etc. We knew that we have to check our situation frequently, but the "Intolerable ease of life" made us reckless.

We were close to crash into Anti-Paros rocks with few meters. Only good luck or Poseidon were with us to avoid it. From that moment on, we decided to check at least every 20 minutes our position.

The insight is-- "do not fall into navigation coma because of the modern gadgets".

Apart that incident, Paros was wonderful for the youngsters as for the elders. they went for a long day at the beaches to enjoy many attractions (part of are not to be published here), and we want for a quite nice tour to the ancient village.

**Thursday, 11/9/2013**

Nice weather with good wind to sail quietly without the engine noise was our compensation. We sailed to Kythnos, starting your way back to mainland. With not many tourists, the island welcomed us with a smile on faces of the local tenants.

We sat at the friendly tavernas. Exchanging stories and experiences with people. We lied down in the warm spring water, feeling the relief in our tense muscles. Ate good food, even though a little bit expensive.



**Friday, 12/9/2013**

We sail out with no rush. Letting the youngsters navigate and steer the boat. Next stop is on mainland. Here we had another mistake. We wanted to taste a "rich people marina" -- it



cost us otiose 63 Euro, at Olympic marina.

The benefit we got there is that we stayed on boat at the evening, prepared our own tasty dinner. After dinner, we sang old songs with a guitar-- wonderful atmosphere.

### **Saturday, 13/9/2013**

Not much to say for this day. The wind was too weak, and we dragged our way to Alimos marina.