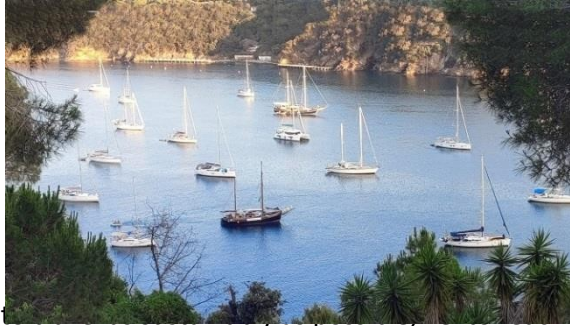


"NORSEMAN", Walti's notebook, 3rd part

Elba Island, mid-July 2024



After around 4 weeks in operation, the "NORSEMAN" is now once again a familiar sight off Elba's coast and at anchor in various bays.

"Joy reigns"!

In addition, whenever there is a bit of wind, sails are set immediately, the next destination, anchorage or harbor without an engine.

Learning seamanship is part of the training program on board for the volunteers and students. Coastal navigation, as a helmsman/
-The program also includes training in the use of ropes and the setting of various sails.

This was rarely the case in our day. Only with longer
"The sails were hoisted on our boat for the first time. After all, the ship has a total sail area of 118 square meters, counting all 7 "cloths", and that's a lot of work every time. But we weren't really real sailors (at least most of us weren't), the dives were our first priority. That's the way it was, wasn't it?



But back to the program with and on the "NORSEMAN". This year's motto is **"Vele spiegate"** (under sail) from the organization "LEGAMBIENTE".

This includes:

1. Cleaning beaches and cataloging the collected garbage (you read that right!).
2. Search the sandy beaches for traces of turtles and locate their nesting sites.
3. To educate and sensitize bathers about the presence of sea turtles, including on the beaches for the purpose of laying eggs.
4. Coastal land excursions to get to know the local flora and fauna.
5. Last but not least, lots of bathing fun and vacation atmosphere on board the over 100-year-old Gaffelketch "NORSEMAN", as already mentioned, the handling of the ship.

The crew (the respective supervisors), which is made up of different people each week, hands over the ship to the new crew when the volunteers change at the mostly fixed berth at the former EDILNAUTICA shipyard in Portoferraio.

TASK	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
WASH DECK	3	2	1	4	3	2	1
WASH CABIN	1	3	2	1	4	3	2
WASH TOILET	1	4	3	2	1	4	3
WASH BUNKS	2	1	4	3	2	1	4

Taped up in the lounge, students will find the task list(s) for the previous week.

For example, cleaning the boat, inside and out, including the day's schedule and timetable. Cleaning bunks and toilets and, not unimportantly, the shopping list with the basic groceries needed for the coming week. This is handed over to a retailer, who takes care of the shopping and delivers the goods directly on board.

The participants, normally made up of 8 students (male + female), aged between 14 and 17, from all parts of Italy, get to know each other for the first time while bunking up on board. The aim is not least to foster social cooperation and to learn to live together for a week in a very small space on board.

This also includes the preparation of all meals on board. There is therefore no star chef in the galley. The menus are created and prepared exclusively by the volunteers. In any case, the photos always look very tasty.

So far, I have been on board for 2 - 3 hours at almost every crew change to discuss any problems that have arisen on the ship with the skippers. Last but not least, to hand back small parts that I have repaired. Missing parts and equipment are also discussed, which make the operation of the ship safer and easier.



A small example of this might be the "Pütz". This is a bucket with which you can bring seawater on board using a 2-meter-long line attached to it. It is used to rinse and water the deck every day. However, a normal plastic bucket is not suitable for this, as it would only bounce back and forth on the surface of the water without filling with water.

A real bailer, on the other hand, is made of thick, heavy rubber fabric, has a corresponding weight and is fitted with a strong, galvanized bracket. It is used to "scoop" water on board in a matter of seconds and is actually part of the standard equipment of every boat.

A new Pütz is included in the shopping cart from Hamburg.

Those of you who had logged in to the "Diversamente Marinai" via Facebook, for example, might have discovered a nameplate on the ship with a different home town and a new ship number when browsing through the many photos.



The fact is that the "NORSEMAN" currently sails under the Polish flag and is registered in her home port of Gdynia and has the registration number **POL000RVJ**.

The reason is that the previous owner had reflagged the ship with EU flag, at that time registered by us in Hamburg (D), to Swiss sovereignty, which led to problems with the new Italian owners.

This meant that the entire procedure of "re-importing" the ship into EU territorial waters and transferring it to the Italian flag had to be tackled. A process that can easily take one or even two years.

In some EU countries, however, the official procedure for registering a so-called pleasure craft (private vessel) is a mere formality and is completed within days with the payment of a relatively small annual fee.

As a result, the "NORSEMAN" can now sail in all EU waters again without harassment and the proud Italian tricolor on the stern will have to wait.

Nevertheless, a small Italian flag adorns the ship, namely as a courtesy pennant in the "host country Italy", starboard in the top. There is nothing that does not exist!

Nevertheless, the "NORSEMAN" had to undergo a technical inspection by the Italian RINA (TÜV in Germany) and the safety equipment on board had to comply with current standards. Only then was the ship given "free passage".

Wednesday, July 24, 2024



18:00.

DHL has just delivered two heavy parcels from TOPLICHT in Hamburg.

The first shipment of urgently needed goods has arrived!
Now there is work to do - for me too.

Sorry to say goodbye to writing now, but there are more important things to do.

In my next notes you will find out what came out of these boxes and how everything on the ship could be renewed.

The crew will be delighted!

Final note: These/my "NORSEMAN" notes are limited to a relatively narrow circle of friends (ex CLUB NORSEMAN members) and are sent by me "package by package", to some of you even printed out and sent by post.

Anyone who feels harassed or coerced by this can send me a short message to exclude themselves. However, passing it on to friends is permitted.