

## A Family Holiday- June 2009.

### Aegina, Poros & Hydra.

Dad, Barbara & Neil joined us for a 14 day cruise from Piraeus to the nearby islands of Aegina, Poros and Hydra. It was a double 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration. For Barbara & Neil's first sailing trip, we had chosen these islands because they were all beautiful yet different from each other, not more than a few hours sailing apart and provided good opportunities to also anchor once or twice for a real "sailing experience". Neil, an expert fisherman, wanted to fish, Barbara wanted to relax (and shop!) and Dad enjoyed being together with the whole family.



Here are a few of our photos from a really fantastic 14 days together.



Starting at the Acropolis...sharing Neil's (and Havana's!) first fish on board, enjoying the view along the coast at stunning Hydra (the island of donkeys, no wheels allowed), Barb getting to know Tuck, Neil right at home on board. Below, enjoying our own "Blue Lagoon" at anchor.

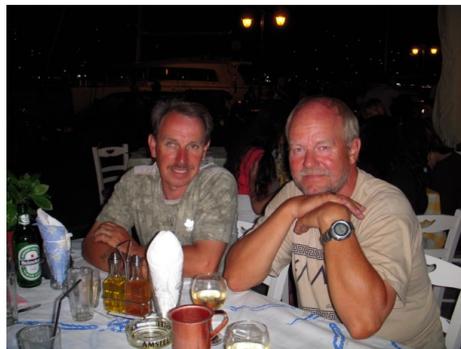




On Aegina, we thought we were seeing things...a Viking ship from Roskilde?? In fact, a fascinating project and we were lucky enough to be invited on board one evening to meet the crew of 23 volunteer Turkish marine archeologists sailing a replica of an ancient Turkish ship from Izmir, Turkey to Marseilles in 2 months. Later, after many exhibitions and special events, it will be sunk to provide an underwater wreck to study the effects of sea water on shipwrecks. They invited us on board to see how they lived ( sleeping on wooden planks). Depending on the weather, they either rowed, sailed or were towed!



On Hydra, we enjoyed the extravagant annual festival to commemorate Hydra's contribution to the War of Independence. The harbourside was packed with crowds and the water full of illuminated, small boats for the sound & light show, culminating in the blowing up of a replica Turkish ship and a huge firework display followed by a live concert of well-known Greek bands. And on Havana, we had harbourside seats! They know how to party!



Thanks so much for coming, Barbara & Neil, and Dad. We'll never forget this holiday.