

Naxos - our luck runs out...

02.06.11



Above...a view of the bowsprit and pulpit while they still existed!

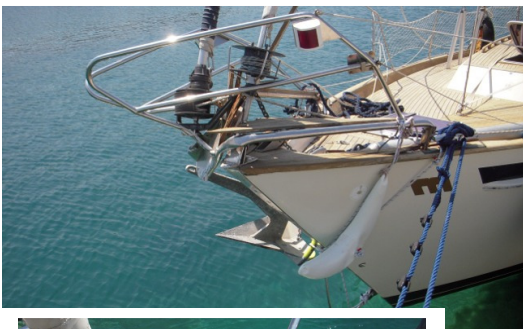
Below, 42 mm stainless steel buckled completely back on itself and crumpled beyond repair in seconds.



Sometimes you forget about the power of the sea. It has a way of reminding you....

On 02 June, on the instructions of the harbour master, we tied up as normal, nose in, at the end of the quay behind a breakwater with 5 other boats. The very busy harbour was full and we were assured we were protected from the ferry swell. We hung a very large fender out to protect the bow. At 5.00 pm. the high speed catamaran came in full blast at 30 knots (5 knots is the legal limit but they ignore it when they are late). Within perhaps 3 minutes, despite our mooring ropes and stern anchor holding, 13 tons of Havana was lifted up in the huge building swell and pushed forward smashing the bowsprit repeatedly on the concrete quay. 3 minutes and 130,000 dkr. worth of damage. The steel pulpit and bowsprit smashed to pieces, 2 rolling genoas ruined, all guard rails stretched, electrical cables severed, lights, ropes, fenders destroyed, teak splintered, steel cleats ripped out. But thankfully, no hull structure damage- our big fender did save us from that- much worse. And Tuck hid down below! Clever dog. But really a miracle that we weren't hurt. But oh, how it hurts to see Havana in this state. The next day the Coast Guard put a big yacht in the same place ! usually there is no problem, but they know it can happen.

Pantaenius, our insurance company, has been fantastic. We cannot thank or praise them enough. An agent flew down from Athens. They cover us fully and will now try to sue the ferry company after too many of these incidents .



Jan was on shore trying to find a safer berth. I was desperately trying to fender us off , not having seen the force building behind me when the bowsprit broke up under me, a jagged piece of teak splintering up missing my face by inches. Thrown back by the force, I was on my way over the railings but hung on for dear life and ended up thrown onto the deck as the boat tipped again. Sheer luck really. We could do nothing but watch.(Score one for my guardian angel.) Must be easier ways to get 5 minutes of fame... we later heard around town that I was known as the woman who almost got killed on the boat yesterday. 3 other boats were also damaged but not as severely, sustaining cracks to their stern hulls. We cannot use sails, anchor or get on/off boat unless we are tied alongside. After 10 days , we motored carefully back to Leros.