



## Leros in limbo



In late May, Dad had an accident and an infection and was hospitalised. I spent 6 weeks at home—from 36C to 14C! Barbara visited for a week and Dad recovered well. In my absence, Jan got to work at the house and varnished the ceilings (an old tradition here) till they shone. They look beautiful. Havana finally floated again in a nice private spot on the outer jetty of the marina where we remain encamped, (now mid-July) waiting for spare parts from Italy and Athens for our gear box—normal wear&tear after 6 years hard service. Even if we had been able to, we could not have left the island. The temperatures are extreme this year and the meltemi vicious and unrelenting day after day. Two yachts have been towed in by the Coast Guard with broken masts, while a person was lost overboard just 60 km. from here off Naxos the other day. The bays around Leros have been packed with yachts at anchor for several weeks. Brilliant sunshine, killer winds. Many have come from Turkey (just a few nm. away) where absurd new rules on holding tanks make cruising virtually impossible now. Temperatures are in the high 30's (110F). Every fan on Havana is running 24/7 and Tuck swims at least twice a day to make it tolerable, a real trouper.



Thomas, Carina, Phillip & Nille enjoy 2 weeks at the house & we have some wonderful evenings out together to remember.



It is fun to be camping on board. Why stress ourselves – we cannot hurry Italian delivery (though in order to get 3 small gaskets worth 12 euros that can fit in a letter envelope we have been forced to pay 60 euros in express delivery to get them within a month). Acquaintances from DK have borrowed the house & jeep, others arrive in early August. We read under the trees on the beach, laze in the cockpit, grill in the warm evenings, “scooter” into town and buy a beautiful painting by a local artist for the house....Siga...siga...slowly, slowly... eventually, we'll get away to nearby islands and anchorages.

Well, whatever it was, it wasn't me.....