

## 2007 part 2 (4<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> June)

We have arrived on the boat again on the 4<sup>th</sup> of June at about 10,40 hours in the morning after a night ride that started in Vienna the day before in the late afternoon. Saturday and Sunday are the most appropriate days for driving this long distance as on Austrian roads there are no trucks allowed as of Saturdays 3pm onwards and even in Germany there is by far less truck traffic over the weekends. This makes driving less stressful, on other days I have a never ending truck line to watch, to overtake and so on.



We have sailed to the "Pampushaven", a small sheltered place where free anchoring is allowed for some nights. It was my first anchoring over the night so I was a little bit scared in the first night if the anchor actually holds in the ground, which made me to set the alarm clock for every 1½ hours at night to check if the anchor actually keeps in position. Everything went well and I had a good sleep in the second night, whereas Vani always sleeps well and long in any conditions on the boat like a marmot.

Sailing back we had some problem with the foresail: When at anchor I had winded some additional line over the foresail to reduce the wind making noise in the rolled in foresail. I had forgotten to remove this line again. Now on the IJsselmeer with 4-5Bft and the boat shaking like a ping-pong ball, the foresail got stuck when unrolling. I could not roll it back the same as I could not unroll it further. So I had to get down the foresail, which was done with some difficulty only, and to tow it provisionally in the bow. Sailing only with the main sail at the aforesaid wind conditions made the boat a little bit unstable and as the wind was coming too much from the front direction we got soon tired and started the motor to reach our marina, however with motor only the boat was shaking the more. It was a big lesson to me to check further all sails properly in the future.

At another day we have decided to sail north-west to the other end of the IJsselmeer, to Den Oever. The wind was only little in the beginning, we had all sunshine conditions, sometimes very hot and sometimes rainy and cold, but all with little wind only, so we have made some little speed only over the hours. We have been about 5 miles before Den Oever when suddenly, without of nothing, a strong east-wind of about 5-6 Bft came up. Luckily we were close to "Ouede Zeug", a small work-haven, and I have decided to motor in and to stay there over the night. The north side of the harbor was already occupied by some bigger commercial ships and we have found a place only on the west side, but the problem was that quai wall was not straight, it was ribbed and no fender would have protected the boat at this situation, it would have got obstructed and even smashed by the easterly winds of meanwhile more than 6 Bft that were pressing against the boat. One man of the commercial boats gave me a wood sheet from which I have made with two fenders a fender plank. It was a night I could definitely not sleep for one minute and was sitting outside watching the boat going up and down the quai wall, sometimes I had adjust the fenders and the fender plank. It was really the most terrible night on the boat at all that I will never forget. - Vani was as always deeply sleeping and schnarchend - no wind, no noise, no movements of the boat would ever disturb her sleep.

The wind got only a litte less early in the morning and in a rush we were motoring the few miles to the Den Oever marina.

In the IJsselmeer-Handbook of DSV there is nothing written about the the improper landing possibility at the west side of Oude Zeug. At easterly winds without a fender plank the landing at the west side is dangerous.



We have enjoyed at Den Oever for some days. It is a very small village of only some hundreds people living, with a fishing harbour, one of the few ones left at IJsselmeer. There is only one small supermarket, which also operates as post office and the bank, two or three little other shops, about three gastro-localities - that is all. But the atmosphere there was very pleasant, most people are greeting even strangers when passing, it seems that everybody knows everybody and everybody is welcome.



The Den Oever marina is very nice, about two miles outside of the village, the sanitary facilities are much more better than in ours, however it is much more expensive.

We went by bus to Den Helder, a small city of about 50T people living there. It is a "grown" city with some character, not as Lelystad planned instantly on the desk and built within some years only, although Den Helder is said not to be the same as before the 2<sup>nd</sup> WW when almost destroyed by the Germans. It is the home base of the small Dutch Navy, there is a nice naval museum, the commercial and fishing harbour is very busy. We have liked it very much there and imagined to live there as it is a mixture between a city and a village, not as small as a village but not as too big to become too anonymous for living.

Sailing back to Lelystad with about 4Bft of wind was without any problem. Because of the wind direction we had to cross first of all to Lemmer, then passed the Enkhuizen locker. A while behind the locker the wind has fallen down almost and it started to rain heavily, so we had to motor the last 5 or 6 mls back in heavy rain, I got totally wet as I have missed to change cloths in time. Vani was inside the boat in the dry, but finally she got wet also when we had to land boat in our harbour.

After that we could not sail much anymore, there was a period of very strong winds up to 8 Bft, which would have been beyond our sailing capabilities to handle. Only once in a while we went out a little from the safe harbour.



Vani spent a lot of time to feed her "family": She started to feed a family of ducks, that came then regularly in the morning and evening to get some bread. When sleeping longer in the morning, mother duck come up to the window picking on the window until Vani was coming out of the boat. Vani was very sad when we had to leave for Vienna and our family back at the harbor.

We had to go back to Vienna, because Vani's nephew was coming with his girlfriend and a group of students from university on their passing through on a sightseeing trip to Europe.

We also had to go back to Vienna to push forward the sale of our apartment in the city centre which would put us in the position to buy somewhere some other apartment or house more close to the boat. I have written on this site already that moving to Greece would be our favorite place to live further on, although the extreme heat and the forest fires in Greece, specially in our favourite area, have made us somehow meditative if this will be a really good decision for the rest of our lives.