

## 2007 part 4 (17<sup>th</sup> September - 27<sup>th</sup> October)

For this log report I will display the photos in a separate file, they are too many and we have to report a lot as we had the most intense sailing time of all until now.

Our first destination was Amsterdam. We have sailed the first day with a wind of 4 Bft, however, as always, the wind came from the wrong direction and therefore we had to tackle all the time. On our way we have stayed overnight at Pampushaven, and proceeded early in the morning on the next day the short distance to Amsterdam. This time the wind was a 5-6 Bft. The only uncomfortable situation came again when approaching Amsterdam when we had the big freight ships coming from all sides forcing us to give way. The locker and the lift bridge we have passed without any problem, whereas Vani was still scared to handle the lines in the locker. With a lot of caution we have finally landed at the Sixthaven, a small haven in the middle of Amsterdam, opposite of the central railway station, which was as always overall crowded with boats from many countries.

We enjoyed the city, have visited the Rembrandt house, the **Amsterdam** museum and the many romantic bars from which we have soon found our favorite one, all in all we have inhaled a lot of ambiance of this city.

We wanted to stay one or two nights only, however the very strong winds forced us to stay a all together for three nights. Again the wind was predicted to be at least a 5Bft, and as we thought to have been used meanwhile to this we have started. After the lift bridge the wind got stronger, and at sea the meter was showing all the time 6 to 7 Bft. by far not a 5, and the boat was jumping on the short waves. I felt safe on the boat whereas Vani got first time really seasick (see photo). I handled the boat alone without any problem considering it as a good training for rather rough weather conditions.

Back in the harbour I had to hear something from Vani: I do not like sailing, I hate it, I do not come anymore on the boat, you can sail alone..... In such a situation it is better not to reply anything and her mood cooled down after some days again.

Our next trip brought us to **Edam**, a small, romantic (650 years old) village which gave the name to the Edam-cheese. We had some problem to find the entrance to the small harbour as this turned out to be only about 10 m in width and two boats could hardly pass by the same time at this place.

Most of the time we had a very rainy weather, the heater in the boat kept us warm, in spite of the weather we have made some extensive walks, we bought some very good cheese. But there is nothing more special to report

The next trip was headed to **Marken/Voledam**, this time at a rather sunny weather which was not so often in this summer. To save the marina fees we have anchored opposite of Voledam.

From our anchoring place we have rowed with the dinghy, respectively I have rowed and Vani was sitting and giving comments, the almost 2 km distance to **Marken**. Marken has

been once a very traditional fishing village, today it is a museum by itself of the old times: Only the houses in front of the harbour have been kept in the old style. The place is overcrowded by day-tour visitors who get shipped like sardines from the mainland to stay a couple of hours and to return afterwards. It was nice to see that place for some hours, we have enjoyed a good cup of coffee sitting in the sun (see photo).

The next day we (= me) have rowed by dinghy to **Voledam**, crossing the shipping route, in the middle of the passenger ships who shuttle between Voldam and Marken. We have spent a nice day (see photos). I felt tired to row the way back to the boat, however I had no chance than to do it, but I looked for some boat that would tug us back to our boat. Soon I found a boat, some very nice Germans on their sailing boat *CHERUBINI* took our line and took us close to our boat.

The next trip was to **Hoorn**, a village that gave the name to "Cape Hoorn" as the sailor who first rounded the cape in the south of America came from Hoorn. The village itself again was very romantic in the old Dutch style and we came at the right time when the 650 years anniversary was celebrated. The atmosphere is only disturbed by a huge building at the entrance of the harbour, about it we have later learnt that it was a prison in operation till about 20 years ago. For the second day we preferred to anchor outside, as the harbor was crowded because of the celebrations and there was too much noise to our taste.

It was a rather rough night at anchor. It was a good idea to wake up at night and to check the anchor seeing that the anchor is slipping and we were drifting towards another ship. So in the middle of the night I had to start the motor, lift the anchor by hand (we have no electric anchor winch, which is the only disadvantage of our boat) and to anchor again - while Vani was deeply sleeping.

The next day there was a 5Bft wind on our way back which we handled without problem.

The most annoying thing on our boat was the toilet. I had replaced the valves of it in spring in a two days work. Again the toilet did not work properly. So I have decided to throw out the whole sophisticated electrical system and have replaced it by a manual JABSCO type which is working sine then properly. This took me again more than two days of hard work.

To make a last trip before the winter period we decided to make a **round trip** from Lelystad on the Markermeer side to Enkhuizen and on the other side of the dam back to Lelystad with the idea to anchor somewhere on the way.

We have started at about 11am towards Enkhuizen at a moderate wind of about 4 Bft and have proceeded to the Enkhuizen locker and to decide about what to do and where to stay after passing. I was happy that Vani first time enjoyed the locker she could handle the lines in a perfect way, she was happy about this as well.

Although it was after 5 pm in the evening and getting dark, we have decided not to stay close to Enkhuizen at anchor because the wind was increased to 5 to 6 Bft which would make anchoring rather uncomfortable and we we did not want to pay again marina fees. A

lot of swell and the waves would make it very uncomfortable, to all of this came the darkness. This was the first time I really have experienced the advantage to have a radar. Vani was watching the radar at the navigation place in the boat whereas I was steering the boat and kept a sharp outlook as we were approaching again the shipping route close to the Lelystad locker.

As the wind decreased to about 2 Bft I have started the motor for the last mile before the Lelystad locker. As we have had passed meanwhile this place many times before I thought to figure out from the many lights the entrance of the locker by heart. But there was something in front on the radar screen I could not figure out at first, as the night was very dark. So I slowed down and saw in front of the locker not only one, but about 10 freight ships towed before the entrance. Good to have a radar, you do not need it often, but when, it is really good to have.

We have passed the locker without problem, again Vani handled the lines perfect, she was jumping because of happiness about it and all the stress she had was forgotten. So in the future lockers seem to be no problem for us anymore.

At almost midnight we reached our place at Lelystad-Haven again.

The next days we were busy to prepare the boat for the winter, this time in the water and not on land: All the sails have to be dismantled, the motor oil has to be exchanged, the cooling system to be filled with defroster, the boat cover to be mounted and a lot of other things.

Now as I am writing this in January 2008 we are making plans for the next year. Some modifications and improvements have to be done on the boat: I have ordered the Bouvaan windvane kit which I will fix together at home in Vienna, I have bought a motor for the Dinghy, a wind generator will be mounted. We want to make the boat fit to go to the Mediterranean through the French channels early springs after all the works at the boat have been done.

Now let us listen to **Vani's words** about our sailings of 2007:

I like to say something special about my husband. I think he is really a tough guy compared to me and he has much courage, responsibility, extremely alert about things happening around. I do not know how it is going for me in sailing in 2008, I believe that it will be a great challenge for both of us doing something together.

I hope I will enjoy and I will like it. When I look back the tough time I have gone through I think I will make it in the coming years too. I do not have such a great passion for sailing as I do have for mountains but I believe that I get the opportunity to see many great places, people and culture. I will enjoy together with my husband and help him in little things where he needs me.