

FELICITY

Progress Report 6

The shakedown cruise was a great success. Torpey, George Whitehead, Bob Lane and I sailed Felicity from Southwest Harbor to Shelborne, Nova Scotia and back. We averaged a little over six knots for the four hundred miles. We had all kinds of conditions from driving rain with 20 knot winds to bright sun and 12 knot breezes. Felicity was a joy in all of them.

The cutter rig is a real asset. The system for shortening sail is to start with the full main, working jib and staysail. (We did use the Genoa but it is so bulky and difficult to stow that we may not set it at all; it doesn't seem to be necessary with the staysail). The first step is to reef the main; then we take a second reef in the main. The next logical step would be to take down the staysail but we found that if we waited a little bit we could simply roll up the jib on the roller furling. We got to this point at about 20 knots going to windward and felt as though we were good for another ten knots or so before we might consider a third reef.

The helm is easy on all points of sail as long as she isn't over-canvassed.

One of the main lessons learned was that truly waterproof gloves are an absolute necessity and not a luxury. My fingers are still numb as I type this four days after we got back.

I also had polypropolene socks and found that they were warm and dried quickly as advertised. I intend to use them as well as polypro underwear and bunting on the crossing. We haven't tried them but think that LL Bean boot liners might work well in sea boots to keep your feet warm. I have bought a pair and they do seem to fit the boots pretty well. (As you may be able to tell we were a little on the cold side on the way to Nova Scotia).

Colin is arriving in Boston June 29th. Is anyone driving up then or the next day? If so he would like a ride. Let me know and I will coordinate it with him.

Just so we are all clear you should each be bringing your own bedding, towels, safety harness foul weather gear and clothes. Everything else is laid on.

OK - I promise to quit bombarding you with words. Nothing but a little sailing left!