

Monday 16th of march 2009

**Survey
To the works in progress on
AVRION**

The visit to the works in progress has been plenty of satisfaction, and important to take further decisions in order to proceed in the wished direction.

Let me relate to you:

first the new masts.

All the part to finish building the main mast are ready and the major part is glued .As you remember the mast is a long box with wooden fillings in the area of the spreaders , boom fittings, head and foot. All the fillings are in place and glued to one lateral side and to the stern side of the mast which are already in place. The front part and the other lateral side are ready to be glued to the rest too,but Marco needed some informations before closing. He needed to know were the electric wires should enter and come out of the inside of the mast. We sorted it out. The only doubt is the position of the exit of the wires in order to connect them with the boat system. And you could help us finding the best solution .The old mast was fitted inside a box in the bathroom and the majority of the wires and connections, were inside this long box containing the mast . Now it will be a lot nicer to take this box off and see the new wooden mast ,nicely varnished in the bathroom; but we have to avoid to see the wires coming out of the mast and connecting with the electric system. My solution is sketched in a draft attached. As a part of wires should follow the beam and the other needs to go toward the bilge, we could have the outcome hole of the mast high enough to be close to the ceiling (so it will be out of humidity) .We will create a box under the ceiling to cover the exit of the wires and two narrow boxes , one will be parallel to the beam containing the cables direct to the left side of the boat, the other is a vertical narrow box 4 x4 cm vertical ,on the side of the mast driving the wires toward the floor and the bilge were they will reach the rest of the system.I know I am not very able to give you a good description, but it is more complicated to explain it than to realize it!

If you need, I can let you have a better drawing than my sketch. If you agree with this solution, Marco could fit the polyethylene hoses inside the mast (in which the wires will be passed later) connecting this exit with the outlets for the spreaders lights, navigation lights, VHF antenna, wind instruments.

As you can see from the picture , the alluminum masts are still on board , as there has not been a right day to take them off: strong wind and still many days of rain.But they are ready, all the electric connections have been disconnected; I think they will be taken off one of the next days of the week.

The Hull:Avrion is generally in very good conditions . I believe the keel bolts will not show any problem as there is no trace of stress around the keel. Never the less it is the right opportunity to check some of them .

There are few seems to be checked and maybe caulked on the topsides, and Marco will check them out once the boat will be sanded before painting. There are also a couple of rust spots on the topsides : maybe some iron screws has been wrongly used there: Marco will check and solve the small problem.

Engine room, engine ,and following problems

The floor has been taken off to see better and understand how to operate. It is clear the need of a new electric plan. It will be better if your sailor will come to the boat before taking the engine off , and I told the manager of the boatyard please to wait a bit more. Taking the engine off is a natural priority before taking the bolts off, and working on the hull to prepare for painting has to come after the bolts operation. Infact the painters need a scaffolding all around the boat.But to take the bolts off they need to lift Avrion with the travellift in order to have room under the keel, and it is not economic to build the scaffolding twice.

The shipyard manager shows some hurry to begin with the engine removal as time is running and they are full of planned operations in the following months.

On the other hand Marco and myself are aware of the importance to have your man on board , not only for he engine operation , but for many other boat needs. Up to now Marco made his crew take out of the boat some sails and objects and they stored them into a locker ;the anchor and the chain have been stored on the ground. They will be helping with the operation of dismasting and for any need of the boat... but I understand that if the carpenters dedicate their time in other operations than working for the planned ones , they will take longer time and costs could increase . I know that you are working to find a solution, and I do not want to stress you saying things you know, but my duty is to inform you about the whole situation , please excuse me.

Electric plan:

I went on board with Giampaolo, the yard manager we met together, to talk about planning a new electric system.He agrees with me that the system is in poor condition but he is afraid that his electricians will not have time to lay a new system. I asked please to make an effort as I have not been able to send any reliable company from the mainland. Marco will push more, but up to now we are not sure that Cantieri Costa Smeralda can take the job. As I am writing I received the call from one of the companies I contacted and tomorrow I should meet with them in Viareggio describe well the boat with plans and pictures and see if there is a chance to find an agreement. I will let you know.

Showers: I planned with Marco the new shower position in the fore bathroom . It could be done.there is a slight difficulty as the maststep structures extends itself all the way under the bathroom floor, but there is enough space and Marco understood how to realize it. But we should change the position of a log transducer which is

under the bathroom floor (is it in use?) and move some hoses in other positions. Also for this work ,the help of our sailor would be welcome as he knows without wasting time what kind of hoses there are

The other shower in the back bathroom has to wait for the decisions about the electric system.

General situation

The bilges in the forward part of the boat are in very good conditions, well painted and maintained.

Some water infiltrations are shown in some parts of the deckhouse around the side windows, and some water was found in the bilge in the area of the mizzen mast. To be checked.

On deck I started evaluating the choices for the winch plan and I will let you know my thoughts as soon as I am ready.

I met Luciano, the painter. He will be ready to start working on board after the first week of april, and would be good to have already taken the engine off and checked the keel bolts.

This is all for now.

Kindest regards
Chicco