

**ALDEBARAN**  
**13<sup>TH</sup> Report**  
*Living aboard*

*Olivia;           “Pat do you know what I miss?”*

*Pat                “No tell me.”*

*Olivia            “Being able to relax in a nice big armchair.”*

*This conversation took place on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2000 at approx. 1000 hours.*

Funny the little things you miss when being transported from a lovely comfortable land base to a 12.5metre (41ft) sailing boat. After nine months living aboard ALDEBARAN we feel qualified in giving this report. During this time we have only spent three nights off the boat and that was when we took the ferry from Porto Santo to Maderia last October. Our new floating home is of course, with few exceptions, always moving in one direction or another. Even in marinas, which we use as little as possible, there is some movement. Facilities for living, cooking, washing, relaxing, toileting, are all limited, or are they?, maybe we have become spoiled with modern living.

One of the very many varied daily routines would be;

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 0600 / 0700 | Pat wakens and reads (I have now started to read novels for the first time in my life).   |
| 0700 / 0730 | Pat gets up, Olivia wakens and reads.   |
| 0730 / 0800 | Pat makes very simple breakfast while participating in an SSB radio net.  |
| 0800 / 0845 | Breakfast while listening to security and weather net. Olivia clears the dishes etc.  |
| 0845 / 0930 | Prepare for the days passage while participating in the old ARC radio net. We still have about ten boats on the net.                      |
| 0930 / 1130 | If not sailing we do jobs on the boat.  |
| 1130 / 1630 | Relax, read, swim, snorkel, or go ashore and maybe have light lunch.  |
| 1630 / 1730 | Snorkel.  |
| 1730 / 1900 | Sundowner / happy hour (long hour) on ALDEBARAN or other boat.  |
| 1900 / 2100 | Olivia makes dinner and I clear up (the fact that I clear up will come as a big surprise to many). I keep promising to learn how to cook. |
| 2100 / 2200 | Bedtime   |

If we are sailing we try to arrive at the new destination about midday or early afternoon in order to settle in before sunset, or if entering a reef strewn area to ensure the sun is overhead or behind us in order to identify more easily the treacherous reef heads.

Comparing living on the boat with living on land I suppose some of the main differences would be, having to be careful and not waste water, not being able to go out the door for a walk or to the shops, having to deposit toilet paper in a bag rather than down the toilet for fear of blocking it, (there is a saying on boats that “nothing goes into the toilet unless its been eaten first”). A major problem is, in the unlikely event of having a argument there is nowhere to disappear to, unless of course you go for a swim and that’s not recommended especially at night or in the middle of a passage.

On the positive side the main benefit is that we have got to talking to each other much more than at home when we were each doing our own thing. Dare I mention that the sexual side of our marriage has never been better, it was like throwing petrol on a dwindling fire, and you know how big a flame that creates. If the pressure of modern living is affecting your relationship, then I recommend a complete change, it works wonders. Sitting on deck after dark in an isolated anchorage observing a star studded cloudless sky is an ideal stage on which to dream. But dream of what, at present we feel there is no better place than our present setting and so why would we want to change it?

The following additional pros and cons are listed in no particular order;

**Cons;**

- Having to pump the heads (toilets) about 12 times after usage.
- Arguments over small things and nowhere to go to sulk
- Continuous motion especially at rolly anchorages.
- Heavy weather especially on long overnight passages.
- Constant fear of one of us falling overboard or having a serious accident.
- Fear of being attacked, robbed or injured by pirates. We keep hearing some horrific stories.
- Boat maintenance.
- Olivia misses her family and friends more than me, and this is common on most live aboard boats.
- Being unreachable in the event of home emergencies.
- Cooking in the heat.
- Trying to work in the heat.
- Being constantly alert to secure anchoring especially in high winds.
- Being careful with water usage.
- I miss the odd pint of Guinness.
- Watching expenditure, which is working out more than budgeted, thanks to the strong dollar or weak Euro and IR£.

**Pro;**

- ✓ Togetherness
- ✓ Relaxation.
- ✓ Swimming with turtles, sting rays and the many coral fish.
- ✓ Warm weather, even the rain is warm.
- ✓ Seeing new places.
- ✓ Watching beautiful sunsets in exquisite anchorages.
- ✓ Experiencing new cultures.
- ✓ Easier to clean
- ✓ No normal housework
- ✓ Meeting fellow sailors of all nationalities.
- ✓ Bed early, sometimes before eight.
- ✓ Up early, mostly just after seven.
- ✓ Little chance of having a road accident.
- ✓ No traffic jams.

Here are statistics for ALDEBARAN since leaving IRELAND 280 nights ago (up to 30<sup>th</sup> April); marinas = 125 nights, at anchor = 103, at sea = 34, on mooring buoys = 9 and against harbour walls = 6. We have spent IR£ 1,513 or an average of IR£5.40 (US\$4.70) per night for accommodation. The 19 nights in Las Palmas, Grand Canaria prior to the ARC and the 34 nights in Rodney Bay, St Lucia after the crossing accounted for 42% of all marina nights.

We will try and update these statistics periodically.

Our next report for will cover our cruising in the British, U.S. and Spanish Virgin Islands including details of *horrific attacks on two boats sailing in different regions of the Caribbean.*

**Please keep your e-mails coming.**

Pat and Olivia  
Yacht 'ALDEBARAN'  
April 2000, West Indies.