

EXPLORE AND DISCOVER

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All lifestyle photographs taken by Tim van der Steene.

TAG NEWSLETTER MAY 2011

ISSUE 10

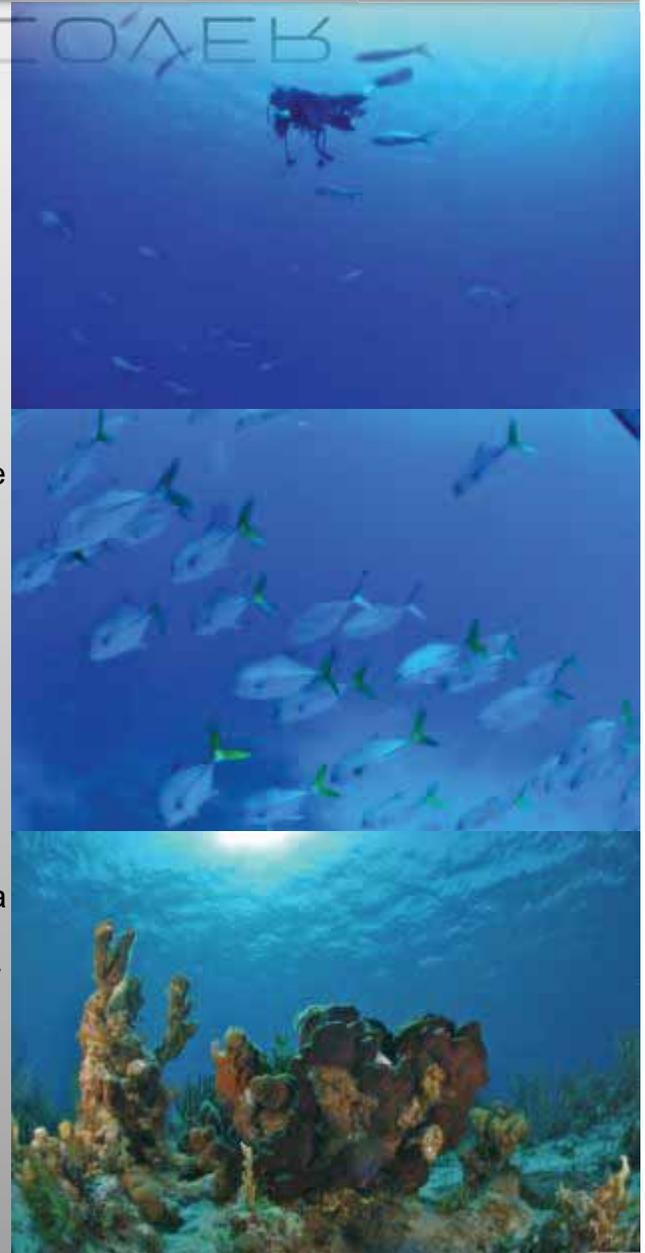
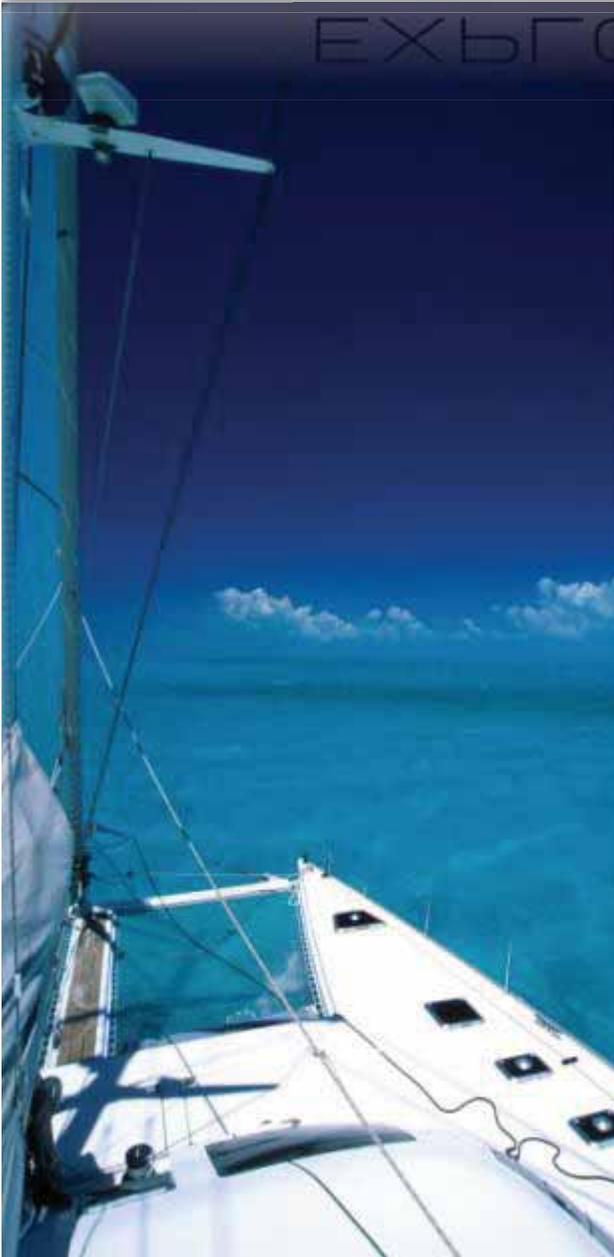
EXPLORE AND DISCOVER

There are only four people that I know that have explored this small piece of Paradise. I will not divulge the name and location at this point. Those of you who know can send me a message. I will let the rest of you know in a future newsletter.

All I will say, its location is 45 nautical miles from the nearest island, it is a 5 x 3 mile atoll where the tidal range is only 2 feet. The reef surrounds a lagoon with depths up to 5m. The water surrounding the atoll comes up from depths of 2000 feet so the water is crystal clear. The snorkeling and diving are the best I have experienced. The visibility was often unlimited.

It was part of a gentle delivery from the BVIs to Florida, USA. We arrived at midday, so the visibility was good and the reefs clearly stood out in the overhead sun. We found a good anchorage inside the reef in calm water with a good sand bottom. Perfect. Azure blue, turquoise water with a clear view of the sandy bottom and fish swimming around.

Part of the atoll had built up enough to form a sandy beach with coral outcrops to provide good nesting grounds for the terns, and gannets. There was limited vegetation, so no other land-based life could be supported.



TIM TAKES US ON AN ADVENTURE

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It was an untouched underwater paradise. Totally wild and free. The sea life was tame and hadn't been tainted by man. Everyone lived in a state of trust and natural respect. The choice of diving ranged from shallow hard coral reefs to steep drop off walls.

It was an underwater photographers heaven. Calm seas, zero sediment in the water, variable light, 360 degree reef so that you could choose your lighting at any time of the day, and abundant fish, sea life, hard and soft corals, sponges, etc., etc. It was all there. And of course the water temperature was a comfortable 28 degrees so no wetsuit required. The inner lagoon had a depth that varied from 3-8m so it was perfect for an extended solo excursion. To be able to just hang out and wait for things to happen around you was relaxing and thrilling at the same time. Once again a photographers dream.

We had the freedom and tranquility of being there on our own. It was a week of ultimate freedom. No outside worries or worldly requirements. Living life on our terms, totally responsible for ourselves. We obviously had to look after our babies(boats), cleaning, maintaining and constantly monitoring the systems but this is second nature in this lifestyle.



THE ADVENTURE CONTINUED

EXPLORE AND DISCOVER

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The typical day starts with the first person up brewing some fresh coffee and then maybe a snorkel, swim to wake up. Not all that daunting with a water temperature of 28 degrees. That weeks breakfast consisted of Lobster omelet's, the usual South African bacon and eggs, Mexican muffins, etc.

Exploring the atoll with the dinghy lead us to discover several wrecks that had been unfortunate to encounter the reef with disastrous results. For us however the wrecks were close to the surface and in fact two of them, still very much intact had run up onto the reef and will probably never move. Lots of lobsters!!!!

After the days activities and several hours of work (maintenance and cleaning) the end of the day was celebrated with the usual sundown refreshments and either a lobster or fish braai (bbq for non South Africans), served with a conch salad, or some other wonders that the girls always managed to conjure up in the galley.

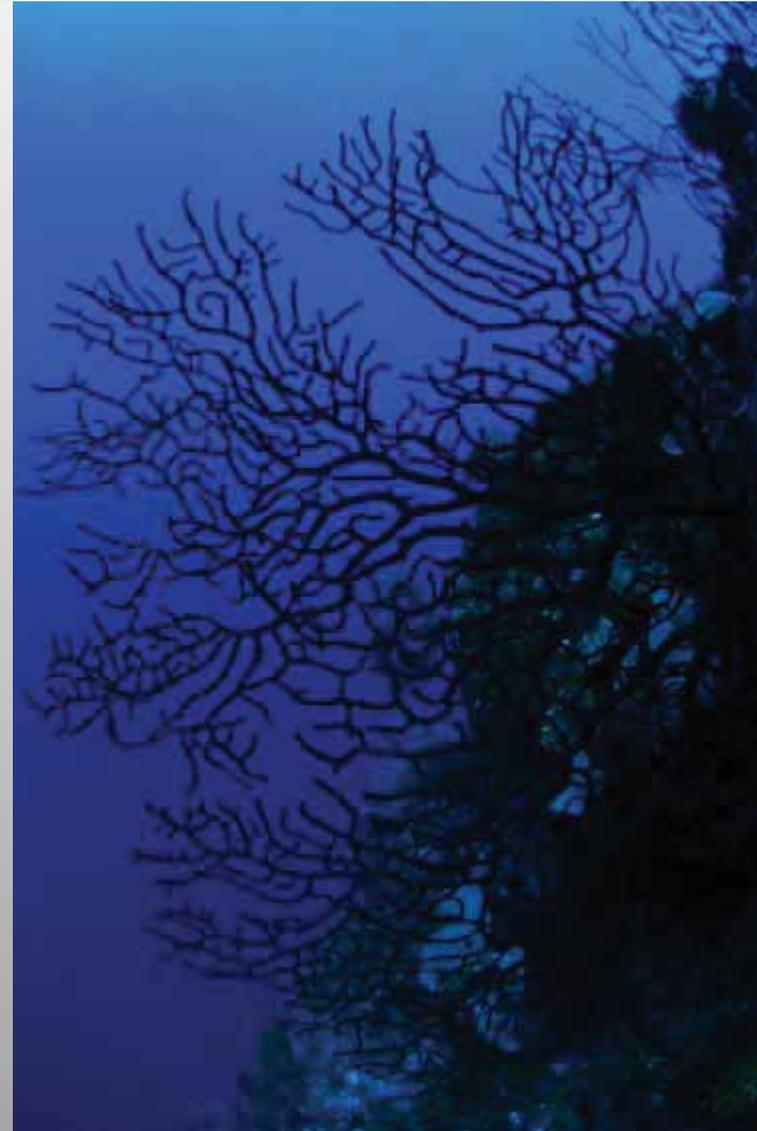
It was an awesome week of peace, fun and freedom that is so often typical of the sailing lifestyle. All part of what a TAG60 was designed to allow you to discover.

What are you waiting for?.....

THE ADVENTURE CONTINUED

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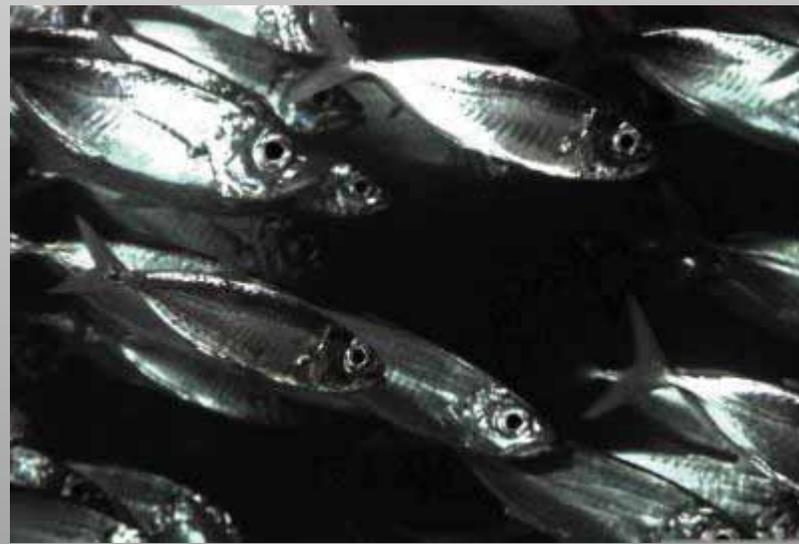
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TIM'S GALLERY

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TIM'S GALLERY

PROGRESS REPORTS

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PROGRESS REPORT HULL#2

With a launch date of late July 2011, pressure is mounting to ensure all is well when number two hits the water -she has to be complete in every single exciting detail.

Our crew have learned a lot during the build of #1 and it's quite evident in hull#2. The systems on this our first production boat are state of the art, reliable and user friendly. Weight was shed by the ton! The deck is slick & simple, the hydraulic system has been streamlined making it more efficient, lighter and user friendly. There is a new cabin-liner system and more painted surfaces. Most of the solid surfacing counters in the boat will now be cored, carbon fibre tops which not only look stunning but also help to lose some kilo's!

The joinery work in the hulls will be finished completely by the end of May and the saloon shortly thereafter. Spray-painting the exterior is pencilled in for June and we can't wait to see what the pearlescent white spray-job is going to look like. The deck will be finished in an off-white Interdeck for non-slip.



HULL 2 AND HULL 3

PROGRESS REPORTS

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Most of the major systems are in the factory with the balance due in the course of this month. A lot of the components for hull #1 were sourced in New Zealand and we have gone out of our way to source components locally this time around as having the back-up readily at hand saves time and money. Hull#2 will also feature the ever trusty Yanmar Saildrives as opposed to electric motors driving shafts - this change alone more than halves the size of the battery bank.

PROGRESS REPORT HULL#3

On assembly of the final remaining elements Hull#3 will be born. These are; Two centreboard cases, bowsprit reinforcement and transverse 1. When these components have been bonded and tabbed we can commence with hiring a crane to de-mould the major components and marry them up to become a boat.



HULL 2 AND HULL 3

TRAINING

TRAINING



Tag yachts have been assisting the industry Seta (Merseta – Metal/ Engineering Related Sector Education Training Authority) with developing an industry training curriculum.

As mentioned in previous newsletters, we are one of the few, if not the only boat yard in the country with an ongoing compulsory training program. With this in mind, Merseta contacted us to assist in developing this curriculum. Many other industry players were involved and subject matter varied from basic laminating right through to infusion, electrical systems, plumbing, fairing, painting and design. To me, this is a very exciting development as I can remember pursuing this very cause about 12 years ago!

We had the pleasure of hosting Suzie Vester and Tammy-Lee Campher of TLN Human Performance Systems for three weeks in April with the aim of documenting our processes and taking photographs for learning material. The Boatbuilding and design modules were the priority and it was fun teaching the girls a bit about what we do. Suzie even had the opportunity to build a half-model as she wanted to experience the same challenges as a learner would and wanted to make sure she understood the process of lofting. This approach really endeared her to me as I'm a firm believer of understanding why you do something instead of just doing it because you were told to. Having seen some of the other course material she has developed for the automotive industry I can attest that she is thorough and lays out the work in a logical, easy to understand format to get the desired result, which is to up-skill South African workers in the boat building industry – a cause we should all be supporting.

TLN AND SUZIE VESTER

MAST AND BOOM

MOOB DNA TEAM



The Park Avenue Boom tool in construction phase



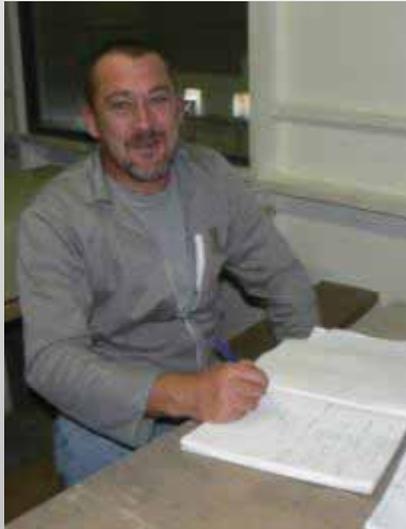
Mast #2 nearing closing stage



PROGRESS

STAFF NEWS

STAFF NEWS



HANS SWANEPOEL

Our deck-fitting team is headed up by Hans Swanepoel. He is a qualified pattern-maker with a background in the aerospace industry having worked for Aerosud Aviation.

Initially Hans worked on developing tooling for the Tag 60. Critical elements such as the centreboard cases and centre boards were developed by him as well as tooling for some of the clear carbon parts where there is no room for error.

When production of the first boat started Hans was redeployed to the deck-fitting team as his experience with fitting and finishing to a high standard was crucial in this department and he has not failed to rise to the occasion although deck-fitting was not something he had done before!



NEVILLE JACOBS

Neville was Tag's first employee! He started with Tag in July 2007 and has seen the complete process from building the plugs, the moulds, hull#1 and now hull#2. I am personally blown away when I see how he has grown in terms of skills and his responsible, professional attitude to his work and any task at hand.

Neville is a jack of all trades. He installs the glazing in the boats, he also built our office desks and can laminate with the best of them. The fact is, in our young company he is rapidly becoming one of the experienced guys, able to assess a situation and assist his colleagues in doing the right thing.

HANS AND NEVIL

STAFF NEWS

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Olivia



Hilton and Les



Dean



Eugene



Marshall



Johannes & Lee



Richard & Kenneth



Lee



Denwin

GALLERY

CONGRATULATIONS

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