

Repairs to *Linde*, the Celebrity Class Sailboat OR

She was a Diamond in the Rough

By Phil Correll September, 2011

I often search on Craigslist late into the lengthening night.
That evening was no different, but the stars were aligned just right.
I saw a listing for South Coast that caught my drooping eyes,
But I had no vague idea where that named location lies.
Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, and New Bedford sounded strange, indeed, to me.
I “clicked” on a sailboat listing to find what it could be.
A Celebrity danced before my eyes, and I was astonished at the sight.
Her cost was just two bills plus fifty. I feared that was not right.
A man in far off Massachusetts had a boat he did not want.
She sat there sad and lonely with deck damage to her front!
I contacted her present owner, and here is what he had to say,
“She suffered a cruel dismasting while moored on Buzzards Bay.”

Within a day and a half we were traveling north to buy that hull.
The trip through New York was slow, but it surely was not dull.
Vehicles crawled slowly as bumper to bumper we sat in line.
I used the Easy Pass lane at an exit, and I’m waiting to receive the fine!
We met the owner and his family at their home in a wood quite dense.
The lonely, broken sailboat waited in weeds beside a split rail fence.



The trailer she was on did not fit her; the
proverbial “bushel in a peck”.
I was concerned about the bearings, but the tires
I did not check!
After thirty minutes on the highway I stopped to
feel the trailer hubs.
By chance I touched the rubber treads, and I
found mostly cords and nubs!
For the remaining miles we checked both tires
whenever we made a stop.
We arrived in Pennsylvania truly amazed that
those sidewalls did not pop.

With rain forecast to hit us we backed the boat right into the barn.
So, here and now we can close out the first days of our sailboat yarn.



Taking our new boat all apart was the next chore we had to do. We labeled the parts most clearly and were sure not to lose a single screw! Hurricane Irene even came a-calling during our work and caused a flood. Our lower fields were flowing, but we didn't have to shovel any mud.



You know that the biggest repair worry was the huge hole in the deck,
So, I grabbed the saw and chisel figuring there wasn't too much I could wreck.
Places were cut to remove the bad wood, and then new wood was cut to fit.
Two types of strong epoxy made a very solid, neat job of it.
Yes, we used West System epoxy that Gougeon Brothers packs and sells,
But the packaging of Six Ten adhesive is something that really smells.
The container tube is quite long, and that tube is also fairly stout,
But when it seems half empty the good stuff is all squeezed out!



When the deck was later painted with light blue non-skid paint so thick
The repair seemed to almost disappear. I think that really did the trick!



You know what they say about good help and how it is hard to find. Well, Eileen will always pitch right in, and she doesn't seem to mind. She held the boards and then sanded some with a dust mask on her face. She varnished all the pieces of wood and wants to see them back in place. Plus, her paint technique of "dabbing" made the non-skid deck look great! With her artistic choice of colors we will make *Linde* shine first rate.



I used fiberglass, plywood, and epoxy to fix the damage we both could see. Then I crawled beyond the bulkheads to find what other ruin there might be. Discovering rotted beams and mast step, just to mention those first two, I know when our work is finished that boat will look as good as new! The centerboard trunk gets epoxy and so do two short, floating ribs. When the time has come to sail her I think I'll give Eileen first dibs.

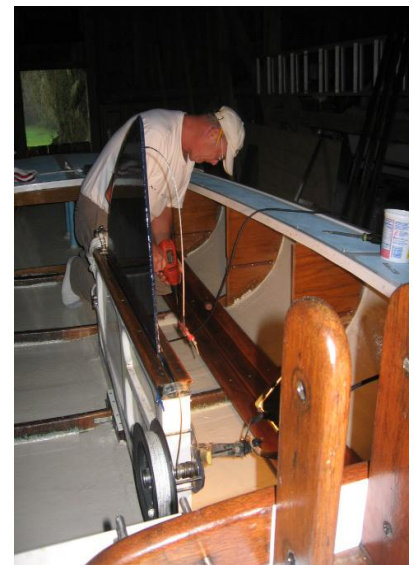


Do you remember the old, rusty trailer that we pulled for way too long?
Well, we bought a new Shoreland'r and hope that nothing will go wrong.
A small concern arises since we've waited weeks for the paperwork from the state.
There may be a clerical error, and you know that won't be great.



Our farm sure isn't a boatyard...no lift, no trucks, no four-man crew,
But transfer the boat to the new trailer is what we had to do.
Bales of hay and two old benches supported *Linde* as her old trailer was pulled out.
When her new "wheels" were in position she felt much better I have no doubt.

Linde's first trip on her trailer was into that old-barn shelter stall,
And there is where she was when her first visitor came to call.
Our "Boating Guru", Barry, gave my ego a verbal tweak
When he said, "You thought surely you'd be done working in a week!"
Well, those words stung a little bit, but since they were very true
We started to replace the wooden parts that had been varnished anew.



Three M caulk and adhesive now bonds the deck fittings and hardware.
Our goal is to keep the water from causing trouble by getting under there.

A motor mount was needed, but it had to be a very special kind.
I wanted it on the cockpit gunwale and not have the push come from behind.
Having it handy to be removed for sailing was my plan and grand intention.
Some time was spent a-thinkin' then I cut, drilled and sanded my invention.



Sometimes this project moved quickly, and sometimes it seemed to drag a bit.
Adding a fire extinguisher looked easy, but took two hours to make it fit!
When all else was nearly ready Eileen helped to hang the rudder from below.
Arriving at the lake without it would not have been the way to go.
Wednesday October 5th was the happy day we were ready for our first sail.
We took *Linde* to Blue Marsh hoping for some wind, but not a gale!
The lot was nearly empty just some kayakers and a power boat or two.
We would put our sailboat in the water to see what she could do.
We were off the dock with a little fuss and motored across the lake.
The hull moved fine, rode smooth and flat, and left almost no noticeable wake.
We sailed on just the main alone with the motor to help get back to port.
The wind was brisk. It was a shake-down cruise, and so our sail was short.
About an hour was all it took to spot some things to change and to improve.
We're looking forward to when Eileen, Phil, and *Linde* will all be "in the groove."

