

Len Hiley and Emu

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Pedro Pinto pgpinto2000@gmail.com from Praia da Vitória: Len left this morning towards Flores to provide the possible assistance to the Jesters diverting there.

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Just to let people know I have retired to the lovely marina Praia da Vitoria, so reached a Jester finish, just not the Newport one. Family commitments in July meant that Newport would be difficult time wise even if everything else was perfect.

No complaints though, I have had a great time after starting with the fleet then returning to TRSC to continue with unfinished preparation. Nothing serious has not worked, but there are the usual list of things that want attention. My main issue has been that although Emu is a more suitable yacht for Jesting than Scallywag, I had not cruised far in it, and not at since the last phase of the fairly intense refit. The fault was less with the craft than my unfamiliarity with it. The recommended minimum 500 mile solo non stop prior experience in the same boat is there for a good reason. I was foolish to not get a good shakedown first, and am old enough to know better.

One issue that could have been serious was weatherfax reception. My older netbook has power issues and will crash without warning unless plugged in. I installed the weatherfax program on a new tablet and also a microphone adapter. All looked well but the radio would not talk to the tablet. I had to use the older machine and accept the distortion due to the power supply. Luckily it was good enough that we could shape a course staying east of the ridge of high pressure keeping wind on the starboard quarter most of the way. I think the British radio will not talk to the Chinese tablet because they have not been formally introduced.

Best wishes to the other Jesters and wish you all some great sailing this season

Len Hiley
EMU