

A scenic view of a fjord with steep mountains and a cruise ship in the distance. The sky is overcast, and the water is a deep teal color. In the foreground, there is a small pond surrounded by low-lying vegetation. A solid red rectangle is located in the top right corner of the image.

Going Cruising*

*WHAT I WISHED I KNEW BEFORE I LEFT

Who am I?

My name is Elaine Cashar

1993 – 1999 Co-owner Fairwind, C&C40,
local racing and cruising, 3 Swiftsures

1999 -2017 Windarra, Stevens 47,
liveaboard

2001-2004 South Pacific; Rich, Jesse, Sarah,
and Katmandu (a Maine Coon)

2010-2016 Rich and I sailed from Seattle to
Ketchikan, Alaska, then south around
Cape Horn (March 2015) to Vitoria, Brazil
(March 2016).

Windarra was sold in Trinidad, August 2017.



What I wished I had learned before I went?

- ▶ Photography!
- ▶ Spanish plus brushing up on my French
- ▶ Weather / Passage routing / Gribbs
- ▶ How to use a pressure cooker
- ▶ More experience at the helm, especially with a gennaker
- ▶ More first aid training
- ▶ How to select size for halyards and sheets
- ▶ Racing main vs cruising main
- ▶ How to help my son get into college

Spares

- What I'm glad we had?
- What we learned & acquired along the way?
- What I wish we had?
- What I wish we didn't have?
- What we were able to get and where?



Spares: What I'm glad we had

- ▶ Toilet rebuild kits
- ▶ Lots of cotter pins, hose clamps, wire and wire ties of various types
- ▶ Wooden plugs, one by each thruhull
- ▶ Sail mending kit
- ▶ Tools to splice line, thimble, etc
- ▶ Spare line – halyards, sheets, dockline
- ▶ Pumps – engine, water, bilge
- ▶ Lots of tools
- ▶ Belts for engine
- ▶ Ipad with electronic charts and wifi connection to AIS, wifi antenna
- ▶ Spare batteries for electronics, camera, night vision scope, etc
- ▶ Laminated photocopy of passport photo page
- ▶ Copies of medical records
- ▶ AED

Spares: What we learned & acquired along the way?

- ▶ Winch rebuild parts
- ▶ PFD cartridges
- ▶ Dynema line and fittings to replace standing rigging or lifeline
- ▶ Thumb drills to clean propane stove orifices
- ▶ Marlon filters
- ▶ Anti-static bags for electronics
- ▶ Mosquito netting
- ▶ Strap material and buckles
- ▶ Vacuum packing bags
- ▶ Computer fan to cool nav table laptop
- ▶ Leather to make chafing guards
- ▶ Stainless steel cleaner
- ▶ Backup thumb drive and hard drive
- ▶ Fine tool

Spares: What I wish we had?

- ▶ Spare windlass motor that went the correct direction
- ▶ Preventative maintenance and rebuild kits we forgot to get
- ▶ Spare parts for outboard motor
- ▶ Rubber gasket making material
- ▶ More spare belts
- ▶ First aid kit for dingy
- ▶ Spare handheld VFH for dingy
- ▶ Lock on dingy compartment
- ▶ Spare pump to inflate dingy
- ▶ Spare refrigeration motor
- ▶ Electrolyte powder

Spares: What I wish we didn't have?

- ▶ Pressure cooker
- ▶ Genniker vs Code Zero
- ▶ So much stuff

Spares: What we were able to get and where?

- ▶ Marine parts
 - ▶ Mexico, New Zealand, Australia
- ▶ Metal parts fabricated
 - ▶ Anywhere
- ▶ Replacement Jerry Jugs
 - ▶ Mexico, Panama, New Zealand, Australia
- ▶ Refrigeration parts
 - ▶ Most places except small island nations
- ▶ Propane parts
 - ▶ Most places
- ▶ PFD cartridges
 - ▶ New Zealand, Australia but not all manufactures
- ▶ Yanmar engine parts
 - ▶ Mexico, New Zealand, Australia

Fixing your boat in exotic locations

- ▶ Refrigeration motor died 10 of 23 days to the Marquesas 2002
- ▶ Engine mount failed in Raiatea 2002
- ▶ Anchor roller Tonga 2002
- ▶ Replaced engine in Mexico 2012
- ▶ Heater repair Chile 2014
- ▶ Alternator mount Chile 2015



What did I learn along the way?

- ▶ Nothing lasts forever in a salt water environment
- ▶ Even if you are not using something doesn't mean it is still working
- ▶ Preventative maintenance is key.
- ▶ More chafing than I expected
- ▶ Never bring any cardboard on board, always dispose of before it gets on the boat
- ▶ Don't have pink jobs and blue jobs. **Each person should have some knowledge of everything on the boat** but one or more people will be experts
- ▶ When you go to a foreign country, it is their country, their rules.
- ▶ Learn to be self sufficient and how to MacGyver in a pinch

Enjoy the beautiful world around you

