

MANCA 2015 - APRIL BENALMADENA AND FUENGIROLA LIFTING AND LAUNCHING

After arriving from Paris in Malaga at the beginning of April a long list of repairs, fitting out, painting, cleaning and service jobs awaited. Most of April was spent with the jobs which seemed to have the amazing ability to propagate overnight so that there were always more to be done each day. The time flew by. The jobs seemed endless. Small tasks you would guess to take few hours often evolved into a few days. Crews were on their way from the other end of the world: Australia and Tasmania. Manca needed to be in Bristol condition by May 1.

In 2014 Manca was lifted in Almerimar. The service guys there were excellent and very helpful. However Almerimar was a few days sailing away and then the return time would gobble up over a week. In addition the weather was looking quite dodgy. So reluctantly I decided to give Fuengirola Marina a chance. I made the arrangements and after waiting for a long public holiday to end, sailed the short distance to the waiting dock.

The next morning Manca was to be lifted at 0900. Unfortunately that appointment went out the window as a local, large fish boat jumped ahead of me. The predicted storm starts to build and I am now worried about being blown hard on to the dock with easterly wind. After explaining the situation to the Marina in my broken Spanglish, a motley crew arrives to help pry Manca off the dock. We can now scurry around to the lifting bay.



Manca lifted April 6. It is always a tense time as one hopes there has been no mysterious damage to the hull!

Pressure washing saves a lot of work and time. The concentration shows the level of professional care. The workers were great. The managers are wonkey.



I think our dear small lift operator has been at the job since he placed The Ark somewhere at the top of Mount Ararat! But I am sure with great care and attention.

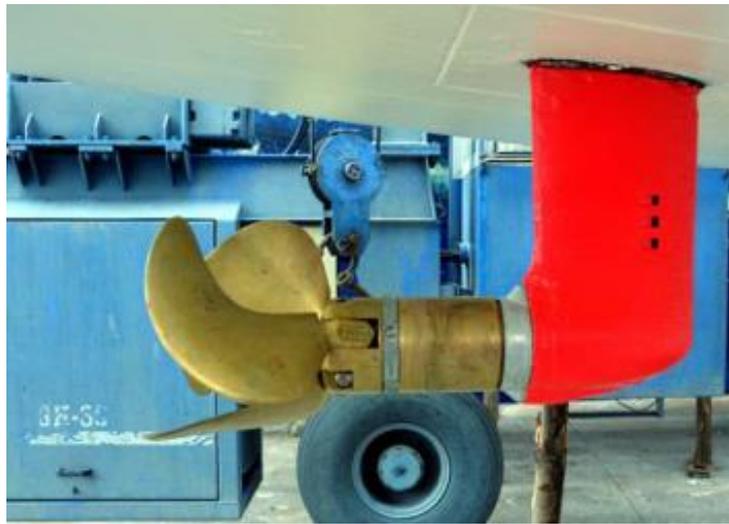
When I see the spindly stick system of shoring her up I always remember a story of a Canadian sailor. He sailed into New Zealand from Vancouver. Lifted his yacht and that night there was an earthquake. Most sailors never think of getting earthquake insurance.





After 5 days work Manca is in good shape and ready to launch. None of it was easy. Two mechanics did not show up but in the end I found a good one at the last moment to service the propeller and sail drive.

I do some little jobs like five coats of the special anti fouling paint for the leg. This usually involves banging my head on the hull a few times.



During the time Manca was on the land a violent Mediterranean storm pounded the breakwater with five metre waves. Manca was in the best, safe place.

The easterly storm emptied the beach.





Storm waves break over the wall. Not a time to be sailing. The fishing fleet could not leave the harbor.

Storm waves block the entrance. You could not leave or enter in these conditions.



Lucky that on the day of the launch the storm is over.

A happy skipper after a successful launching. Driving Manca back to Benalmadena.



Back at Benalmadena the surf is up!

The remainder of April was taken up with many tasks to prepare for the season. Above and below decks needed preparation. Some wonderful meals were a fantastic help!

Braised rabbit with pan fried potatoes and lightly steamed vegetables





Pork tenderloin with steamed red peppers and a secret glaze.

Fresh Spanish fruit with Belgium chocolates.



But now that the re-launch is done your skipper has to rush back to Paris for a few days to complete his application for a French Temporary Resident visa. It seemed that a haircut and a tie might be in order.

More on this in the next blog.



A tie? A haircut? My goodness! Off to Paris again.

Marina Smir Morocco, June 17 2015