

## Stabilizer Customer Report

# 'We congratulate ourselves constantly on how clever we were to install WESMAR stabilizers...'

Over the years we have had hundreds of stories from customers about WESMAR products improving their lives at least a small measure. The following story is from Diane and Patrice Breuils of Nice France written by Diane in English – in her own words. Diane story is a masterpiece.

Story written by Patrice & Diana:

When Sunseed (No.1) a sailing boat located on Lake Annecy sank in the terrible gales of December 1999, the question arose whether

- To live without a boat. Out of the question for Patrice, who has sailed from the age of 3.

- What to buy to replace her.

At the time Patrice had his own international grain brokerage company, based in Annecy. Encouraged by Diana, he decided to sell his business and join her in enjoying life full time. Hence the decision to buy a Grand Banks and cater to the disparate needs of one non-sailor and one passionate sailor was made. Moreover, a Grand Banks would allow Patrice to retain some dignity in changing from sail to motor.

Sunseed II thus became ours end 2000. Neither of us had any idea how much time we would spend on her (nor how much money either!!). However, to Patrice's surprise and



*The Grand Banks Sunseed II travels all over the Mediterranean Sea, the addition of WESMAR Stabilizers has made long trips more comfortable and less tiring.*

delight I quickly adapted to sea life and we found we were happy to spend up to 5 or 6 months of the year on the boat – based at St. Raphael, Côte d'Azur, some 45 minutes by car from Nice airport.

Our second summer (2002) on Sunseed saw us making the trip from St. Raphael to the Ionian Islands of Greece – some 1,000 nautical miles one way. We had a wonderful time but it was a long trip with sometimes uncomfortable journeys of 12 or more hours (our max is 24 hours because our dog's autonomy doesn't stretch beyond that). Thus, we began to think about either changing boats – or adding stabilizers. Initial discussions with the Grand Banks

representative for Europe were not too encouraging, as he had no experience of fitting stabilizers to a 42-foot boat. He was uncertain if there would be room in the engine room, if our engines (Ford Lehman 130hp) were powerful enough, etc. We continued to reflect and ask questions.

Jacques Lienart knew we were tossing up about either changing boat or installing stabilizers. Eventually he persuaded us that the WESMAR stabilizers would be perfectly straightforward to install and would "change our lives". We had invested enormous time and money installing many other features on Sunseed and  
*(continued on back)*



now knew all the many ins and outs of the boat. Changing boats would mean starting this process from scratch! Installing stabilizers thus seemed the most cost effective and logical final step: Stabilizers would be the only remaining equipment we wanted to make Sunseed perfect for us – and our extended cruising plans.

Thus when we set out in May 2004 for the Balaerics we wondered how the boat would feel and react with the new WESMAR stabilizers. Having had various unexpected rough seas (the weather conditions in the Mediterranean are notoriously unstable), I always battened everything down irrespective of a calm weather forecast or a very short trip. It only takes 10 seconds for things to fly around and break – right?

Immediately we realized that life with WESMAR was going to be quite different. Despite rough sea conditions – or passing whizz kids creating



*Diana and Patrice's loyal traveler soaking up some sun on the Sunseed II.*

enormous wash – the boat just kept her course – straight on. Admittedly there is more spray as the boat just ploughs straight through but that's not a problem. Bottles of water or glasses on tabletops do not move or topple over. Moving around – even in rough seas – is safer as the boat will not suddenly lurch to one side or another. Opening the refrigerator became quite feasible (often totally out of the question or quite hazardous before) and preparing meals and hot drinks while underway also became

virtually straightforward. When doing long trips – over 24 hours – its important to eat, drink and sleep to some reasonable extent. With stabs this is feasible. Without – and in the event of anything other than totally smooth seas - this is a real challenge. Long trips are still long, but much more comfortable and hence less tiring.

We congratulate ourselves constantly on how clever we were to install stabilizers and pity those who are still suffering without!! Granted it's a significant investment but for those really planning to "go places" it's the feature that changes everything.

We look forward to exploring more of the beautiful Med – with WESMAR - and to testing their new improved gyro. We will be happy to report on the new gyro.

Diana and Patrice  
December 2004