

Stabilizer Customer Report

“Just telling it like it is. The WESMAR stabilizers are fantastic!”

Editor's Note: Paul and Alma Headland live in Richmond, England, 10 miles from Central London, and moor their 1969 Grand Banks 42 Classic at La Napoule, 4 miles from Cannes in the South of France. They use her for cruising including trips with their children and four grandsons (all of whom want to steer!). They recently installed a WESMAR stabilizer system on the boat and were kind enough to respond to our inquiry about how they liked it.

The effect of the stabilizers is dramatic! They easily cope with the size and weight (20 tons) of our 42 Grand Banks. Not at all violent in operation, in fact sometimes you have to check the control panel to see what is going on. I am still amazed at the difference.

It shows when you try to fill a cup with boiling water whilst making tea on passage (we are British after all) as now it's so much safer.

What really amazes me is the complete nullifying of the wakes of large vessels such as ferries. We just go up and down, whereas before I would often alter course and maybe even slow down, now it's better to take it on the beam. It makes moving about the deck and fly bridge safer and more enjoyable, no keeping one eye on the water whilst moving about.

My wife used to spend time on her bunk on long passages feeling distinctly unwell, now she is up making lunch, can't put a price on that! We started boating in 1980 and purchased the Grand Banks 42 Tara Explorer in 1987. Before 2001 our boating had been on the south coast of England but rain and a string of poor summers drove us to the Mediterranean, which we found to have much better boating weather. Although the seas around

the Channel Islands do have their moments with some Atlantic swell, plenty of wind, and 40 foot tides that produce serious wind over tide conditions.

In 1995 during a bumpy passage across Lyme Bay along the UK south coast with a beam sea and a force 4-5 wind, it was lumpy. I had a hired skipper to join me, as my wife didn't want to make the 12-hour passage. He commented that stabilizers would take out most of the rolling we were experiencing. The seed was sown!

The sun shines nearly all the time in the Mediterranean, which makes the sea seem much smoother! However the Med has its moods often creating swell and with the number of larger boats there is always wash swilling around. The wind can also increase to a force 7 or so within half an hour!

Before going to the Mediterranean, we installed new engines, new generator, air conditioning, radios, cell phones, and computers (for connecting to my business network in the UK: Post Production Sound Studios www.wildtracks.co.uk) electric davits, and done much additional re-vamping.

The installation of the WESMAR RS600 stabilizers with the electronic gyro and trim control feature was straightforward once we decided

where to place the controls and the fins. Cutting such large holes in the bottom of the boat was a bit traumatic! The system didn't require much tweaking. The pre-delivery electronics seemed well set up. The kit is very tough looking and I suspect will last for years.

I guess it's pretty obvious from the above that we made a good call installing this system. My wife has so much more confidence that it means we will do much more cruising than before.

Hope this is useful, just telling it as it is.

Kind regards,
Paul & Alma Headland

