

Stabilizers Turn Intracoastal Vessel Into Bluewater Cruiser

If you're going to be a bear, be a Grizzly bear.

That's what Todd Craig thought when he sold his completely renovated late 1800s Victorian-style home in Punta Gorda, FL, and consolidated his life onto a 50' wide body Marine Trader.

It took some time to find, but he was sold on the 1987 Marine Trader model because of the large salon and galley it offered. Craig and co-owner Ron Winters finally came across one with only 1000 hours on the engines. Sold! The trawler would need extensive work so that it offered all the comforts of a home. Tawanda, newly named, was ready for Craig and Winter's specialty: renovation.

After 18 months and new electronics, new full-size kitchen appliances, davits, backup generators and everything else that needed upgrading, Tawanda was ready to hit the open ocean. "All of the upgrades have provided a home and a vessel that is deserving of china instead of paper plates," said Craig.

It was their intention to take her bluewater cruising, but after a trip in the Gulf of Mexico with quartering and beam seas, Craig said that "she rolled. She rolled really badly. So,



Ready for full-time, on board living, Tawanda is fitted with all the comforts of home including WESMAR RS600 stabilizers.

'okay,' I thought, 'she'll just be an intracoastal cruiser.' We still loved the boat, we'd just have to give up the bluewater."

After some time, he started asking himself how he could improve the rolling problem. Craig had heard of stabilizers and looked into a brand that had the same applications as a WESMAR system. "I was shocked. 'No way,' I thought. The price was just too expensive. Then, through the grapevine, Ross Lund of Classic Yacht Service [out of Fort Myers, FL,] was recommended and he introduced me to the WESMAR system. It was much more reasonably priced without compromised quality.

"On the first journey, after the stabilizers were installed, there was a nasty storm that caught us in the

Gulf of Mexico. We experienced 4 - 5 foot seas dead on the side of the boat and didn't even roll 5 degrees. We're very pleased with the WESMAR stabilizers.

"I also highly recommend Ross Lund, as his work and service is excellent. He didn't butcher Tawanda to install the stabilizers and he's very clean—a perfectionist. If you want anyone working on your boat, it's Ross."

Craig told WESMAR that he's a member of the MTOA, Marine Trader Owner's Association, and knows of two boat owners that he plans to point in the direction of Classic Yacht Service for new WESMAR stabilizers. "The quality of the installation and the stabilizers themselves are excellent. I recommend them highly."



Western Marine Electronics
14120 NE 200th Street, Box 7201,
Woodinville, WA 98072 USA
Tel: (425) 481-2296 bsentz@wesmar.com
www.wesmar.com

Ross Lund
CLASSIC YACHT SERVICE
Ft. Myers, FL / Phone: (941) 277-0110
Email: rosslund@earthlink.net