

# Stabilizers On A Sailboat?

Motor-sailor utilizes stabilizers for the first time.

Rialto Harbor Marine in Alva, FL, is a fullservice brokerage that provides vessel project management, specializing in custom equipment installations along with a variety of services. After 25 years in business, Owner/Operator Bus Hamilton really knows his stuff.

When he was constructing the Tropic Explorer, the goal was that she would be a "lowmaintenance, economical to operate, fun cruising boat," Hamilton said. Family cruising means lots of comfort which is a very high priority.

Although she is considered a motor vessel, the schooner rig makes her a sailboat as well. "The sailing is just for fun," explains Hamilton. The Tropic Explorer has a very deep V, steel constructed hull with a large keel and rudder for stabilization, but he opted for additional cruising comfort when he installed two WESMAR 9 sq. foot fins.

Hamilton is proud of this 68' beauty and is happy to show her off. "We use the Tropic Explorer as a model to impress customers. 'Look at the stabilizers,' we tell them. She gives us credibility with regard to our craftsmanship and the quality of the components we chose to put on her.



*Under sail or under power, the Tropic Explorer, a 96,000 pound prototype, utilizes WESMAR stabilizers to keep her "popped right up."*

Along with Ross Lund, owner of Classic Yacht Service out of Fort Myers, FL, we recommend WESMAR stabilizers to all of our customers."

So far, the vessel has been used on the West Coast of Florida and up the East Coast of Maine. "The stabilizers work really well under sail and under power. They perform smoothly and do just what they are supposed to and didn't cost us any speed," Hamilton said. "They don't move until you take a roll."

And the installation?

"The equipment is very rugged and the simplicity of the installation is wonderful. Some of the hydraulic parts are offthe- shelf and are readily available making



*Above: WEMAR's 9 sq. foot fin on the Tropic Explorer*

installation that much easier."

Hamilton is considering building a second Tropic Explorer and this original will be offered for sale. He admits, however, having trouble parting with her. "She's so enjoyable and I'm so proud of her, it will be difficult to let her go."

Understandably so.

