

Stabilizer & Thruster Customer Report

"I would absolutely not make the trip without them"

Rich Van Gemert after five years of cruising with his WESMAR Thruster and Stabilizers

Rich Van Gemert and his wife Sue have a passion for cruising and an impressive list of routes and destinations traveled to match. Having lived aboard their sleek 54-ft M/Y *Lionheart* for five years, the couple have enough experiences to fill a book. After exploring a wide variety of locations, there are two things that have undoubtedly remained consistent over the years: WESMAR's reliable bow thruster and roll fin stabilizers.

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The majestic 54-ft M/Y Lionheart, currently for sale, has many notable upgrades, including a WESMAR hydraulic bow thruster and roll fin stabilizers.

Purchased in 1998, *Lionheart* has cruised at length around the West and East Coasts of the United States including America's Great Loop. After upgrading to a hydraulic bow thruster in 2000, Captain Rich says it is definitely, "a good thing to have the WESMAR bow thruster installed." He also adds, "The bow thruster is a nice amenity that makes maneuvering in close quarters a breeze." Especially important in critical situations such as docking, the stainless steel thrusters provide proportional control at all times. Captain Rich praises the dependability of the hydraulic thruster, stating that throughout their extensive traveling, "It never failed."

Living on the *Lionheart* for

multiple years means comfort cannot be compromised. "The stabilizers are important because we do a lot of open-ocean cruising," says Captain Rich. Traveling from Long Beach, CA to Key West, FL, he said, "After experiencing the benefit of the stabilizers, I would absolutely not make that trip without them." The same could also be said about their other voyages. WESMAR's hydraulic roll fin stabilizers adjust to correct up to 90% of the wave rolls, reducing fatigue for passengers and increasing vessel handling. "Our boating buddies were jealous," said Captain Rich, referring to the unequalled comfort of the WESMAR stabilizers. Captain Rich also said that, "the hydraulic stabilizers are

more efficient." And with higher efficiency comes more fuel savings, an especially important feature with rising fuel costs.

On their website lionheartcruise.com, Sue writes about their journeys and posts photographs, documenting their many adventures and experiences. The Van Gemerts also cruise with their cat, Nikolas, who seems to have taken quite well to life at sea. Currently for sale, the roomy *Lionheart* has two staterooms, a raised pilot house, galley, salon, and wet bar. A perfect home away from home, the *Lionheart*, equipped with WESMAR's electronics, provides a great excuse to journey around the world.



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