

Equipment Issues for Long Range Cruisers

Presented as a hand-out at
an Equipment Roundtable
at the SSCA Melbourne Gam
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Equipment Issues

- Electric
 - Must balance daily charging vs loads
 - Best charging sources-solar, Honda eu 2000, alternator, shore charger
 - No diesel genset or wind needed!
- Batteries
 - Lead acid - longest lasting, 10 yrs +, maintenance
 - AGM & Gel - <2/3 life, expensive, no maintenance
- Electronics
 - Minimize integrated systems
 - Must have backups protected from lightning w/ Faraday cage & anti static bags

Equipment Issues

- Self steering
 - Must have two bullet-proof independent systems
 - CPT-strong basic wheel autopilot, cruiser repairable
 - Monitor-strong quality servo pendulum vane
- Sails
 - Cloth-US made Dacron only, best quality available
 - Chafe protection, stitching, corners, cross cut
 - Headsails-roller furling,
 - Need strong roller fulling staysail, stay always up
 - Full batten main, loose foot, 3 deep reefs 25/50/75%
- Ground tackle
 - Primary anchor-big, modern concave fluke, not SS
 - Rode- no weak links, HT HDG chain, strong swivel
 - Windlass-strong electric, horizontal, Lofrans

Equipment Issues

- Navigation
 - Guide books & digital charts vs paper charts
 - Computer & portable GPS vs chart plotter\$
(spend your money on backup systems)
 - Worldwide Vector/Raster charts available
 - Google Earth charts best accuracy 3rd world
- Communications
 - VHF-two independent systems, one DSC
 - HF-TS50/Icom 706 for \$500, not Icom 802 for \$2K !
 - Antenna-insulated backstay or simple long wire
 - Ground plane-seawater via Dynaplate/thruhulls

Equipment Issues

- Refrigeration
 - Best-Frigoboat w/ Danfoss compressor, evap plate, keel cooler
 - Take time to insulate your box(es)!
- Water collection
 - Carry 150+ gals for 3+ weeks
 - Need good rain collection system
 - Buy big watermaker – 40 GPH, DIY for \$3K, kit for \$5K
- Misc
 - Winch Rite-electric powers winches
 - Fishfinder instead of digital depth sounder
 - Arch aft with dinghy davits, solar, radar, lights
 - Aft boarding and swim platform

More here...

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(Workshop section)

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