

Update ~ December 2013

“Lotus” (40’ steel pilothouse cutter- design no. 86-390)

Lotus and crew are now in Trinidad on the hard, doing some maintenance and waiting for the Caribbean sailing season to begin.

John, we had a great trip from Africa, the Lotus AVERAGED over 6 knots for the whole voyage of some 39 days (Namibia, west Africa to St. Helena Island, 11 days; then on to Tobago, 28 days). The Lotus held the bit in her teeth and really flew in those trade winds. We did have our huge spinnaker pole bend back on itself, just north of the equator: Got caught napping in light air with ALL our sails out by a fast-moving squall in the dark -- another humbling experience. No sail damage, fortunately, but we had to dump the crinkled spin-pole over the side, as another squall was on us.

John, once again, I cannot say enough good things about the Lotus design. She's a great boat that seems to thrive in offshore sailing conditions, with comfort. In more than 9 years of cruising around the world -- even in the southern Indian Ocean -- we were never concerned about the integrity of the boat. It seems that you have designed the right combination of factors like displacement, hull form, etc, etc, to make a great boat. My hat's off to you -- as I've said before.

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