

JUL/AUG 2012

nau*ique*



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MAYHEM REGATTA

Race report and
pictures inside



Mir arrives at ASL shipyard, 24 October 2011



Everything must come off the deck, including Mir's two Douglas Fir wooden masts



De-rusting, replacing and painting the steel deck



The newly painted frames are ready to receive the steel deck



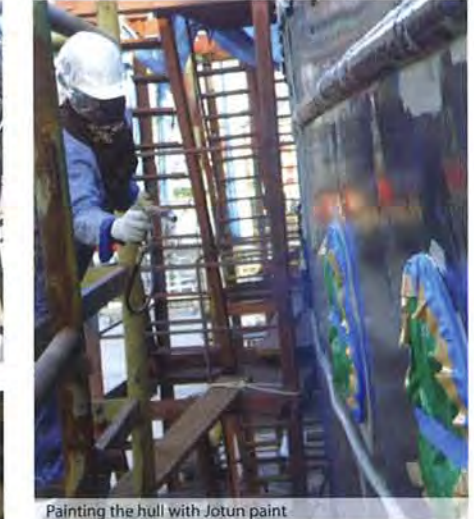
Installing the new steel deck



Pouring Sika Transfloor product



Mounting the windlass



Painting the hull with Jotun paint

Crossing the Threshold with *Mir*

Ahoy sea-faring friends and colleagues who have joined us since 1997 when Planetary Coral Reef Foundation (PCRF) (a project of the Biosphere Foundation) first began its long term collaboration with Raffles Marina. Since then we have chartered two vessels and are now proud owners of lovely sailing vessel *Mir*, a 1910 classic Bermuda ketch. This year marks a threshold for us because *Mir* has been transformed from an old broken ship to a lovely sea-faring vessel.

From October 2011 to April this year, a volunteer team took off the old wooden deck of *Mir* and replaced it with a steel expertly accomplished through the enormous support of ASL Shipyard, Seagull Marine and DEEPBLUE. We are so grateful to all of our many sponsors and dear friends who guided us and helped us through these challenging months as well as to Raffles Marina – the homeport and safe haven for *Mir* and her crew.

Now, with the decision to base *Mir* in Asia and through the many hands that worked along her deck at ASL Shipyard, *Mir* has earned the beauty of her name – a Russian word defining world community and peace. She is a planetary ship constructed over the years as a unique blend of both eastern and western traditions and engaged in work to help steward the well-being of our biosphere. Although her homeport is in Asia, she now has the capacity to sail the world's oceans.

In the years ahead, *Mir* will cycle between its marine conservation projects in NW

Bali, the Anambas Islands (South China Sea) and the Indian Ocean Marine Mammal Sanctuary based in Sri Lanka. Raffles Marina is our hub and mission control providing the much needed safe harbour and support of our growing Singapore community.

I have spent my life sailing the world's oceans since first arriving on board a ship in Samoa at the age of 21. For the last 30 years I have been responsible for repairs and maintenance of each ship that Biosphere Foundation chartered. Of all the many dry docks, this one was the most extraordinary. I am humbled by the generosity and goodwill: From the numerous ASL Shipyard employees who worked side by side with my crew for several months, to the overwhelming help given to us from all our sponsors. Thank you for honouring our work and giving us this help to get *Mir* back out to sea to inspire stewardship of our biosphere.

Mark Van Thillo
May 14, 2012



Mir lifted onto ASL Shipyard dry-dock, November 12, 2011



Mark Van Thillo and Joe Mallia remove the old teak deck



Mark Van Thillo returns with *Mir* to the water at ASL Shipyard, March 7, 2012



Original teak restored to lay back on the steel deck

Thank You To Our 2011-2012 Sponsors!

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
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| Hayward | Three Creeks |
| Scandia Group | JP & SMU Friends |
| Oceanic Offshore Engineering | Dirk Davidse |
| | Joe Mallia |
| | The Crew of <i>Mir</i> |



Mir on the operating table!