

Blue Goose, -- the continuing saga – The House Leaks

Al and Pat Parker

In the Spring Bulletin, no. 167, you learned about the first 7 months of work done “on the hard.” To update a bit, we bought the Goose in January, 2014, hauled her at the end of June after sailing thru the Spring. After completing the work below the rail and the mast work, she splashed at the end of January, 2015, almost exactly a year after purchase. Then we started looking more closely into why the cabin was always wet after a rain.

We should have figured things out much sooner, but there were plenty of things to keep us busy, as you may have read. When we bought her, the previous owner always used two 25 quart coolers, normally set into the galley counter, to catch drips in 2 large areas, one on each side. He had stated that he had tried, with the help of a friend and a hose topside, to chase down the entry points of the water, with no luck. The last part of our story showed 2 repairs that had been made in hope of slowing the flow – they didn’t help much.

After closer inspection, Mike, the fellow who had done the great work below the water line, said, “I need to sand the paint off all the house (coach) sides to see just how bad things are.” He spent a Sat. morning doing so, and cutting away the rotten areas. When I saw it that afternoon I felt quite sick. Our poor old boat looked like Toothless Joe after a bad fight.



No two pix can show how bad it was, but here are two more of the inside of the cabin. You can see the black water/rot markings of the oak, as well as some old patch attempts.



Mike said, “we’ll have to remove the whole house, make some forms for bending, and replace the sides, all around”. I had ordered some oak to use in repairs, and in my despair said, “no, we’ve been 7 months and many \$1k, can you just close it up as best you can for this year?” He reluctantly agreed. Then a day or three later I got an email in which he said he would not be able to continue the job, with no explanation. I asked him to return the wood of mine that he had, and he did. I went on another search for a qualified wooden boat carpenter, and found Jeff, who lived about a 90 minute drive away.

Jeff was eager to work on Blue Goose, he had known the boat from a few years ago, but hadn’t worked on her before. He had other work going on, but said he could work on the weekends. He also felt the whole sides should be replaced, and that he could do it, with my help, by supporting the roof, and cutting away everything else holding it up. This time I agreed.

The house sides were originally 1 inch thick oak, apparently steam bent around the forward curve. Jeff would use 4 layers of ¼ inch marine plywood, which could be bent cold, and laminated in place with epoxy, for the curved area, and 2 layers of ½ inch plywood for the straighter aft sections.



This work started the last weekend of April, and continued for 4 weeks. Jeff cut and fitted all the layers, and once he was prepared, we both worked quickly to prime, apply epoxy, and temporarily screw the laminations in place. This took several sessions to complete.



Again, 4 laminations $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick forward, and two, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick aft. Once in place, all temporary screws were removed, holes filled, the sides sanded smooth, and port light holes cut in place. Primer and 2 coats of off-white paint applied, port lights installed, and only the interior remained to be finished off.



As of this writing, late Sept. 2015, I have not completed the finish work. I have 3/32 inch thick oak to use as veneer all the way around the inside, with a trim piece below it, hopefully to look much like it had before, as seen above. The interior must be sanded smooth, the veneer pieces cut to fit and applied. I was interrupted by the next major challenge of the continuing saga of the Blue Goose, which descended upon us a week after this point, as we went for our first sail in almost a year, on Memorial Day weekend, 2015. As they say, “stayed tuned for coming events!”

You may see many more detailed pix at:
<<http://www.boatanchors.org/BlueGoose/House/>>