NETOP – HULL #52

Ed and Rick Jackson have been the owners of NETOP – Hull #52 for the past 18 years. We believe that we are the third owners and know that we have kept her second name. Netop is “friend” in Narragansett Indian. She resides in winter “on the hard” at Triad Boatworks in Mattapoisett, MA, and in summer just across Buzzards Bay in Quissett Harbor. She takes a two week run each summer to Rick’s place – Dering Harbor on Shelter Island, NY.

NETOP, today, is not pristine. We have her pretty much back to her original 1969 state. The hot water heater, deck wash down pump, dockside AC power, shower, pressure alcohol stove, are all history. The new and replacement “stuff” that we felt was important – roller furling, Dutchman on the main, new sails, new standing rigging, Origo stove, GPS, radio, replacement forward hatch and cabin windows, LED cabin lights; and other “stuff” like replacing and moving the bilge pump, the raw water filter, and oil filters for better access, new head, larger holding tank, etc. etc. are done with always something ongoing – after all, NETOP is a boat.

We know her quirks and faults. We know things we might like to do, but may never get to do. Her original Westerbeke engine starts and runs. Sure a replacement would be nice…. But, the “old kicker” does what an engine is supposed to do. We could replace the water tank, but 5200 has plugged a pinhole leak for 10 years now. Should we put in a refrigerator? Why, when the beer stays cold in the icebox?

She sails like a dream. With jib and main trimmed right, she’ll balance upwind with just two fingers putting pressure on the helm. Downwind, her stern “bustle” lifts her nicely; and she just surfs along. She is the right size for easy two-person sailing, three person aggressive sailing, and for single-handed when you just don’t want anyone else around. She can sleep six, but who really wants to sleep with five other people on a 33 foot boat? And, best of all, she’s a Friend.