



Anne Kolker
Stonington CT

ETOILE

52 FOOT SALON SLOOP

2011— First Marion
Bermuda Race

ALL FEMALE CREW

Through a friend who was a BWSC member Anne, a physician, joined the crew of a boat preparing for MBR 2009 as the boat's medical expert. Through this experience, she and three others -- Deb Blanchette, Deb Gayle, and Garet Wohl -- became good friends and we all began sailing together and having lots of fun. We made a decision to enter Marion-Bermuda 2011 as a team, and Anne offered her boat. Our core crew was formed! Solvej Freitas, Kady Lane, and Jessica Wood soon joined us.

ETOILE KEEPS HER SPIRIT OF LIFE

What sets Anne and *Etoile* apart is that she almost gave up her boat and stopped sailing altogether when her husband died nearly two years ago. They had taken all of their personal possessions off the boat in October in preparation to sell it, but it was not a good market for selling a big boat at that time, so they never actually listed it. Instead, Anne made the decision in late January to keep *Etoile* and started looking for other people with whom to sail.

LOBSTER RUN—PREP FOR MARION BERMUDA

Up until August 2010, *Etoile* had never been in a buoy race, let alone an offshore race, so the boat preparation list was daunting. While the entire crew had solid sailing credentials we had widely varying degrees of racing experience -- and we needed experience racing together. The challenge became to get both boat and crew ready for the LobsterRun 2010, a 327 nm race from Stonington, CT, to Booth Bay Harbor, ME, in early August. Numerous physical changes and upgrades were made, including reconfiguring the pedestal for all new electronics with salon repeaters and installing such head-scratching items as the required extra manual bilge pump which wound up best being located next to the garbage can. The upgrades were completed in time for the LobsterRun start, so off we went with the goal of having fun and the experience of sailing together.

GOING FORWARD

With one race under our belts, we're looking forward to having *Etoile* ready for the Figawi race next May and, of course, to MBR 2011 in late June. Anne says, "I'm looking forward to MBR 2011 being as much fun as LobsterRun 2010". We think she's headed in that direction and delighted that she decided to keep *Etoile* after all.

