

## S/V Nightwinds

We purchased S/V Nightwinds in 1998 with the plan of going cruising, first on the East Coast of the U.S., then on to the Caribbean, and then wherever the wind may take us. While the boat was under going some work we started to gather the maintenance requirements for the engines and generators. This was a good start, but we knew there was more to maintenance on the boat, from cleaning sea strainers to servicing winches. We initially just kept this information in a document. As the document became unwieldy we looked around for some application to help us maintain this information. We didn't really see anything that would meet our needs at a reasonable cost. Eventually, we settled for using a calendar system. This, at least, kept us on track for maintenance that was time based. In 2000 after we had been out for a year, we considered writing something ourselves to track, not only time based maintenance, but engine-hour based maintenance, and the basic inventory of supplies required. But really we had other things that we wanted to do with our time, explore new places, meet new people, and generally have fun.

We found Yacht in September 2000, and it met our immediate needs for maintenance scheduling and tracking, and basic inventory. As we grew in our understanding of the boat, its maintenance requirements, and inventory requirements, we demanded more from the Yacht application. Finally, we hit the upper limits of Yacht's capabilities.

We were thrilled when Portage Bay Marine released Vessel 4. It was a natural progression from Yacht, and its capabilities answered my more complex demands. Vessel presents an opportunity to track maintenance by engine hours, or time segments as small as a day. In addition, it allows us to track provisions and supplies, and will automatically update inventory when we perform maintenance tasks, and let us know if we need to purchase additional supplies.

Inventory tracking and stores on the boat has always been kept mostly in my head. Vessel presented us with an easy way to record the information, and keep it up to date, generate shopping lists and update inventory when we return from shopping, whether it is from a grocery store or a marine store.

Not only does Vessel meet our needs for maintenance and inventory, but is a central repository of information pertaining to our boat. We used to maintain our trip-log book and departure/arrival checklists in separate documents, Vessel has modules for these. The contacts section allows us to keep information on suppliers, marinas and yards, mechanics, and more. Vessel's training module reminds us of what we need to cover when friends and family visit from how to use the head to safely storing their belonging as well as defining crew training requirements.

We are looking forward to the fully integrated functions of the new electrical module. We have a good understanding of our electrical system, and this module will allow us to fully document and see at a glance what our electrical requirements are across our various electrical sub-systems such as 12 volt, 24 volt, inverters, or generators.

As we became acquainted with the maintenance demands of our boat, we were convinced we needed something to help manage these demands. Vessel meets our tracking needs averting possibly more expensive repairs or replacements down the line. We have found that maintenance isn't an overwhelming chore anymore, since Vessel helps us keep on top of it. This product allows us to enjoy our free time, guilt free, because we aren't wondering what we haven't done. This alone has made Vessel more than worth the cost.

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