

“DON’T PANIC” OR A FEW WEEKS IN GREECE WITH THE “HEART OF GOLD”

With visions of sailing the Ionian after a few days of hard work my 14 year old nephew Mick, and I arrived at 5am after an hour taxi ride from the port city of Igoumenitsa in northwest Greece. The boatyard was closed and guarded by two fierce dogs. The German Sheppard with fangs bared leaped against the fence. After a minuet or two they were both on their backs begging to be belly scratched. It seems Mick has a way with dogs. We stashed our bags inside the fence and being hungry, we decided to walk into the town of Prevesa a mile or two away. Our guide was the German Sheppard who leaped the fence and insisted on accompanying us into town. There was one café open and we had fresh cheese pies and drinks and then returned to the boatyard where a nearby residence showed us where the key was kept.



“The Heart of Gold”, a '74 Pandora 22



The boat, “Heart of Gold”, was named after the strange spacecraft in the quirky novel “The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy” by Douglas Adams. It (the boat not the spacecraft) had been out of the water for 3 ½ years and over that time had not aged gracefully. The interior had developed an all natural organic velour finish on most surfaces. Extra-terrestrial life forms came to mind as I opened up the boat. Water had found its way into the interior and even

Home port for the last 3 years

though a throughhull was left open, the water still had backed up several inches above the cabin sole. Unfortunately, much of the contents of the boat did not fare very well and a great amount of time was spent just cleaning, organizing and repairing or replacing all that was damaged. The outside of the boat had an interesting combination of moss and mold with lots of debris from the nearby eucalyptus trees.



Now where is that 10mm box wrench?