

Some like it hot...

The fast way of heating up *Johanna's* cabin

..an illustrated early winter letter to the Yahoo JR group ...



I have to face it; the sailing season is over, the temperatures hovers around the freezing point, and with today's sunrise at 09:24 and sunset at 15:39, it doesn't invite to go sailing. Still, my *Johanna* rests afloat this winter and is actually ready to sail on short notice.

Sailing or not; I like to go and visit my boat, maybe 2-3 times a month; sometimes run the engine, but more important; heat the cabin, brew a cup of coffee, just sit down and have a good time and maybe write a few lines in the logbook.

The challenge is to get it warm enough fast enough:

When arriving on board today, the temp was just above 5°C.



To speed up the warming-up I use 3 heat sources:

The Optimus paraffin cooker is number one. It brews the coffee in the same run. Not much to say about it. If you are used to paraffin cookers, how to preheat them etc. they are safe and easy to use. A bit smell from the paraffin, but not much



The Optimus cooker, producing about 2000W on one burner

The next is *the portable paraffin heater, made by Fuji*. I only bring this one on board during winter. Despite having no flue and the fact that it burns standard paraffin/kerosene, it makes no smell at all – if one does it correctly. The trick is to light it out-doors and not take it inside until it has become hot, with a red glow from that metal mesh. The hot mesh radiates a lot of heat right at you, not unlike a camp fire, so it is no bad idea to let it stand on the table. It is also possible to cook on it, although it is slower than the Optimus of course. Both the cooker and this heater let the CO₂ right into the cabin so keep the hatch a bit open for ventilation.



The Fuji portable paraffin heater. Note the red-hot metal mesh. Produces about 2000W

Last but not least is the *Taylor paraffin heater*. When I bought Johanna, she came with an old diesel version of the same make, the one with a pot burner. The inside was burned/rusted out, and since I had had one before which was rather temperamental in use, I decided to give the one with a paraffin burner (Primus type) a try. This is basically the same as the burner on the cooker, but thanks to the flue, it ventilates out the exhaust gases. It is claimed to produce 2000W, but since some of it goes out with the flue, I guess it can not compete with the Fuji or Optimus on brute heat. Still, this is the one I keep running after the cabin has been heated up and I have to start shutting down the others (.. to avoid a fast melt-down...)



..the Taylor with a paraffin heater. Door open...

Today it took me only about 35 minutes from entering the boat until the cabin reached 26°C!



The Poor Man's Webasto..

The best heaters for such fast heating of the boat are no doubt the diesel-driven hot-air types, made by Webasto, Eberspächer etc. They not only heat the air, but also pump it around through ducts, making sure that cold and warm air get mixed. Now, these gems are not only expensive. They also drain small batteries on sail boats rather fast and they are quite complicated to install with all the hot-air ducting needed.

To get around this, for the last 2-3 years I have been using a simpler method of mixing the hot air up at the cabin ceiling with the cold air down at the cabin sole. I simply made a duct from some left-over canvas – an “elephant's trunk” so to speak, and laced it to a 12V/6W fan. This makes all the difference, blending hot and cold air and making it very comfortable on board. In the summer I just stow the fan away. The fan only draws 0.5Amp so is fairly kind to the

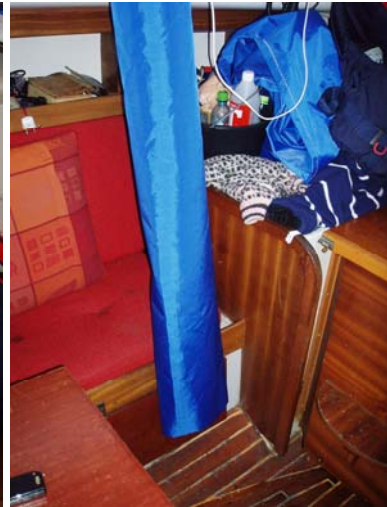
battery. For longer heating, when the cabin has been warm for some hours, the walls and the mattresses have reached the same temperature as the air. Then the fan can be turned off.



The fan, tied to a bridle



..sucking air from above...



...and blowing it out at the sole... Simple!

I don't claim that it looks neat or "yachty" – but it works.

Conclusion.

Almost any source of heat can be used to bring up the temperature a bit and stretch the season; the Taylor heater, a cooker (paraffin, gas or alcohol) or a portable heater. Even a steady metal tray fitted with 10-20 candles can do the job. The challenge is to not end up with a sauna around your ears and winter around your feet. The solution is that little fan with the elephant's trunk. Suddenly you have a *Poor Man's Webasto*. I bet you can easily make it yourself. Good luck!

Arne Kverneland



PS: All the photos were taken this afternoon.