

In early February 2014, my beloved Tartan 34c "Blue Skies", trial horse for all of my Indigo work, suffered an electrical fire while in Winter layup at her slip. While the fire was apparently very small and limited in scope, the resulting soot and smoke damage down below deck is horrendous. Only one section of wooden bunk structure was charred with the bulk of damaged occurring to wiring and batteries.

The source of the ignition appears to be a fault on the printed circuit board of a partially installed Heart Interface 2000R battery monitor. The board with its terminal strip had been wired into the 12VDC system at least 10 years ago and had been laying "harmlessly" in the battery compartment without incident prior to this event. The battery compartment was opened up for the winter leaving the PCB perhaps vulnerable to any dripping condensation or plain old water leaks. This Winter has been the most severe one experienced in the Williamsburg VA area in at least the past 20 years. That may have been a contributing factor. Nevertheless, it appears that the initial fault led to a cascading event wherein conductors became hot enough to ignite a piece of marine grade acoustic insulation which led to the destruction of additional conductor insulation and the subsequent faults that occurred.

Ultimately, sufficient heat was generated to melt part of the plastic casings on two Trojan Golf Cart batteries. One very thankful yet ironic note is that there was no ignition of the gasoline fuel whose tank and filter are directly adjacent to the fire site. In fact, about 24" of 3/8" ID fuel vent hose from that tank was consumed by the fire where it passed through the fire site.

At any rate, the boat has been declared a Total Constructive Loss by BoatUS. The consequences of that ruling are that I will receive a settlement for the insured value if the boat and as the owner, I will be given the option of purchasing her from the Insurance Co at a salvage value of \$500. If I decline the offer, she will simply go to salvage auction. I very much dislike the thought of letting her go but at age 65, I simply do not have the drive necessary to get her clean and refurbished. That, however, would be a very worthwhile task for someone younger and so inclined.

I mention all of this with the thought that someone who frequents this Forum might have interest in purchasing her for \$500 from me. Prior to the fire, she was in excellent condition and had been my Indigo Trial Horse for these past 18 years. Heck, her FWC A4 is worth \$500.

If anyone has any interest, please feel free to contact me and we can discuss her condition and amenities.

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