

12 Days of a Cruisers' Christmas

by Belinda Berry

"What do you want for Christmas darling?"

Hmmmm, some lovely personal luxury - jewellery, perfume or silk underwear perhaps?

Ah but no, we are liveaboard cruisers, and every new purchase must fulfill the criteria of being both necessary and practical, which means that really he is asking what we need for the boat!

Sitting on the hard in Chaguaramas (Trinidad) and getting "Oasis" ready for launch so that we could go up island for Christmas, it was not difficult to think of things we needed for maintenance jobs. Oh and I was going to make a new cover for the dinghy. We must get down to planning our voyage around Cuba and it would be excellent if we could be seen at night when dinghying through the crowded anchorage. Now it might fall into the luxury class, but if we are going to do any more short-handed passage-making, do you think Santa could see his way to providing some self-tailing winches for the main sheets?

So the wish list grew and soon the captain was seen chasing to and fro between the chandlers and our boat on his bicycle with mysterious packages which were stowed in the forepeak. The sense of excitement mounted and finally all was ready for our Christmas Cruise.

Just one luxury then, as it Christmas after all - we'd better get some beers in.

*So, what **did** I get for Christmas?*

On the **1st** Day of Christmas my true love gave to me
A Nav Light for the Dinghy

On the **2nd** Day of Christmas my true love gave to me
2 Walkie-Talkies and
A Nav Light for the Dinghy

On the **3rd** Day of Christmas my true love gave to me
3 Swapped Books
2 Walkie-Talkies and
A Nav Light for the Dinghy

On the **4th** Day of Christmas my true love gave to me
4 Self-Tailing Winches
3 Swapped Books
2 Walkie-Talkies and
A Nav Light for the Dinghy

On the **5th** Day of Christmas my true love gave to me
5 Stainless Rings
4 Self-Tailing Winches
3 Swapped Books
2 Walkie-Talkies and
A Nav Light for the Dinghy

On the **6th** Day of Christmas my true love gave to me
6 Assorted Shackles
5 Stainless Rings
4 Self-Tailing Winches
3 Swapped Books
2 Walkie-Talkies and
A Nav Light for the Dinghy

On the **7th** Day of Christmas my true love gave to me
7 Cuban Chart Kits
6 Assorted Shackles
5 Stainless Rings
4 Self-Tailing Winches
3 Swapped Books
2 Walkie-Talkies and
A Nav Light for the Dinghy

On the **8th** Day of Christmas my true love gave to me
8 Quarts of Jotun
7 Cuban Chart Kits
6 Assorted Shackles
5 Stainless Rings
4 Self-Tailing Winches
3 Swapped Books
2 Walkie-Talkies and
A Nav Light for the Dinghy

On the **9th** Day of Christmas my true love gave to me
9 Metric Spanners
8 Quarts of Jotun
7 Cuban Chart Kits
6 Assorted Shackles
5 Stainless Rings
4 Self-Tailing Winches
3 Swapped Books
2 Walkie-Talkies and
A Nav Light for the Dinghy

On the **10th** Day of Christmas my true love gave to me
10 Spare Impellers
9 Metric Spanners
8 Quarts of Jotun
7 Cuban Chart Kits
6 Assorted Shackles
5 Stainless Rings
4 Self-Tailing Winches
3 Swapped Books
2 Walkie-Talkies and
A Nav Light for the Dinghy

On the **11th** Day of Christmas my true love gave to me
11 Yards of Canvas
10 Spare Impellers
9 Metric Spanners
8 Quarts of Jotun
7 Cuban Chart Kits
6 Assorted Shackles
5 Stainless Rings
4 Self-Tailing Winches
3 Swapped Books
2 Walkie-Talkies and
A Nav Light for the Dinghy

On the **12th** Day of Christmas my true love gave to me
12 Crates of Carib
11 Yards of Canvas
10 Spare Impellers
9 Metric Spanners
8 Quarts of Jotun
7 Cuban Chart Kits
6 Assorted Shackles
5 Stainless Rings
4 Self-Tailing Winches
3 Swapped Books
2 Walkie-Talkies and
A Nav Light for the Dinghy!

**WISHING A VERY HAPPY
CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS!**