

***Hesperus* Over-winters in Kauai**

Paul Woodward, Kirby 23

When *Hesperus* arrived at Hanalei Bay at the end of the 2006 SSTP, she lacked a rudder. Since I couldn't leave *Hesperus* on Hanalei Bay, I couldn't sail her back to the mainland or even to Oahu to ship her home, I realized that I was going to have to leave her on Kauai somewhere until the next spring. I had heard that there were haul-out facilities at Nawiliwili so my sister Andrea, who generously came to Kauai to meet me at the end of the race, and I drove down to the Small Boat Harbor in Nawiliwili to check it out. With the help of Doug Gibson of the Nawiliwili Yacht Club, it looked as if I would be able to borrow a trailer and store *Hesperus* on land. (Nawiliwili's haul out facilities were (are) a boat launch ramp.) I had a temporary rudder built by a metal guy in Hanalei, and with Jim Kellam's patient help, got it installed. I then motored *Hesperus* down to Nawiliwili. The trailer didn't work out, so the Harbor Master, Richard, agreed to let me leave *Hesperus* in the water in a vacant slip. This was quite a gesture as the limit for temporary moorage is (as I recall) 30 days, and I needed more like 10 months. So I wrote a bunch of post-dated checks, and signed a bunch of post-dated moorage contracts and left them with Richard. I buttoned *Hesperus* up, locked the motor below, covered the solar panel with a tarp, and doubled up the lines. The dock is poured concrete so chafe is a big problem with moorage lines. Doug said that he would keep an eye on *Hesperus*, and I gave him the key. Some of the crew members of a charter fishing boat moored across the dock from *Hesperus* were from North Carolina (where I live) and they kept an eye on *Hesperus* as well. Without their attention, I believe that *Hesperus* would have suffered much damage over the winter. As it was there were only a few scrapes on the hull and life-line stanchions. My experience was that if I approached some one on the island the immediate response was that there was no way to do what I wanted to do. Then, after talking a while, it turned out that there were really about three different ways to do just what I wanted. The guy who ran a bicycle shop in Hanalei, who sold me a motor, after telling me that he knew nothing of out-board motors, said "this is Hawaii, there are no problems, just solutions." That seems to be true.

Over the winter, I bought a new rudder, AIS, GPS, and a bunch of other stuff. I shipped all that stuff to Nawiliwili, and arrived myself in early June of 2007. I spent two and a half weeks or so cleaning up *Hesperus*, effecting repairs, and installing new stuff. Putting the rudder in was pretty easy (the temporary rudder had cost \$1,000 the summer before, but I was able to recoup some of that when I sold it for scrap, I got about \$10), the new one slipped right in; I wired in the GPS and AIS (which, I believe, saved the boat on the voyage home as we found ourselves on a collision course with a tanker in the middle of the ocean, in the middle of the night, warned only by the alarm on the AIS); and I had to effect repairs to the foredeck which was being peeled back by the tension of the headstay. On July 2 I left Nawiliwili bound for Cape Flattery, Washington State. I made land fall on July 28, met again, in Neah Bay, by my sister.