

July 6, 2012

Letter of Reference

Re: David (Dave) Sharpe

From: David Lambright

This reference letter is based on a delivery that Dave Sharpe performed with me starting on April 25th, 2012 and ending June 19th, 2012. We began the delivery of Palarran, a 56' Fountaine Pajot catamaran, in St. Martin, FWI and ended in Palma, Mallorca. During the delivery we were a crew of three, Dave, myself, and another inexperienced crew member.

Dave functioned as co-captain during the delivery. He had much more offshore experience than I did but since I was familiar with the mechanics of the boat, had a fair amount of coastal cruising experience, and was the owner, we agreed that we would share the captain responsibilities. This arrangement worked out well and at no time was there conflict or confusion of duties. Our first leg was to Horta, Faial, in the Azores. We made landfall 17 days after leaving and experienced varied weather during the entire segment. This included three days of above 30 knot winds with one day of 40+ knot winds. The conditions were very bad and Dave held his cool exceptionally well. We also experienced several mechanical failures and Dave was able to assist me in making functional repairs underway. The second leg was from Sao Miguel to Palma and was fairly routine.

Dave stood a four hour dog watch during the entire delivery and did so without falter or complaint. He also was quick to do a thorough wash down of the boat upon landfall. We successfully fished for tuna and Mahi Mahi. I also found that Dave was a better sail trimmer than I as he could usually coax an additional ½ knot out of Palarran with some tweaking. He understood the operation of all the electronics and mechanical systems, but may not be able to repair them depending on the reason of failure. I believe that Dave Sharpe is a competent Captain and would be capable of handling up to a 50' monohull or catamaran with medium level crew assistance.

In addition, I have to comment on Dave's ability to cook. Quite simply, we ate like kings due to Dave's love of gourmet cooking. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner provided him the opportunity to delight us with well prepared meals. He cooked, cleaned, and did so with a very big smile and never a grumble of "why am I cooking all the meals?" This goes hand in hand with what I believe is Dave's greatest trait, caring camaraderie. When Dave made coffee, he made it for all of us, not just himself. If he was getting a snack, he would ask if we wanted anything. He picked up dirty dishes and other people's trash. He worked to make us a team and always had a big smile and a "Sharpe" wit. While I probably will not require a skipper in the future, Dave would be welcome to join me as a mate any day.

If you require more information, please feel free to e-mail me at david@belaire.com. Because I am currently cruising the Mediterranean, please allow me a week to respond to any request.