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To whom it may concern.

Subject: Mr. Fred Stegemann

Mr. Fred Stegemann has been introduced to me by one of his former Sailing-Students, a Dentist from Germany. Up to that time Mr. Stegemann attended the University of Oldenburg with the major in Physics and earned his money as a Sailing-Instructor for "Hard Weather Sailing" in the North-Sea.

I needed a reliable Skipper for my brand new 52' Schooner, "SPIRIT of BREMEN". Mr. Stegemanns behavior, appearance and his credentials where convincing and I engaged him in June of 1992 while our "SPIRIT of BREMEN" was still in the Boat-Yard.

From June throughout middle of August while I was in USA, Mr. Stegemann got acquainted with our Schooner and cared voluntarily in particular for the Rigging and running goods like splicing lines and other works.

End of August we conducted several Sea-Trials whereby Mr. Stegemann acted as the Skipper, I was very pleased to watch how professional Mr. Stegemann handled our "SPIRIT of BREMEN" and had no doubts that our ship is in trustworthy and caring hands.

September till end of October Mr. Stegemann sailed our Schooner from the North-Sea to the Canary-Islands via several Spanish and Portuguese Ports without any major negative events and arrived according to the set schedule in Las Palmas, since I was in this time in the USA we stayed in touch via Shortwave Radio.

My 2 sons and myself met our Schooner and Mr. Stegemann again beginning November in Las Palmas ready for a Atlantic Crossing. I found my ship in a fabulous stage due to Mr. Stegemanns care, I was so delighted about his seamanship and good care for our "SPIRIT" that I offered him to call me by my first name and from there on our relation based on friendship.

November till December 1992 we crossed the Atlantic with the destination "Bahamas" a 3500 mile trip. During the 23 days at sea we had a wonderful camaraderie without any problems, Mr. Stegemann proved during this time that he is not only an excellent Sailor, Navigator and Cook he is also a polite, enjoyable and wonderful human being.

In December 1992 our ship arrived after an uneventful journey the “Bahamas” and Mr.Stegemann left for Germany since we intended to keep our “SPIRIT of BREMEN” for a Year in this waters. With a tear in our Eyes we departed.

In December 1993 I did asked my new Friend Fred Stegemann to skipper our Ship from the Bahamas to the East-Coast of Florida. Although a year later Fred handled our “SPIRIT” masterly and we arrived safely thanks to his skills in Longboat Key/ Florida (Tampa Region).

1994, Nov./Dec. we intended to move the “SPIRIT” from Florida to Houston/Texas, needless to say that I called my Friend Fred in Germany again with the request to join me for this trip with the responsibility of a Skipper, Fred accepted and we did this cruise of 700 miles once more together.

Fred, now a Physics by Academic and still a semi professional Sailing Instructor is a wonderful and honest Individual. Who ever has a need for a caring and professional Skipper is well advised to engage Fred Stegemann.

Respectfully

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