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To Whom It May Concern:

This is to confirm that from October 2010 to January 2011, Karen Earnshaw represented SY Carl Linne as ships agent during our stay in the Marshall Islands.

Karen's extensive contacts from living in the Marshalls for over a decade and operating as a journalist provided invaluable help in many aspects. This was proved early on as we had a lot of permits and permissions to organise in a short time while in Majuro prior to our exploration of the Marshall's. This was completed with a minimum of fuss due to Karen's assistance and contacts.

Procedures that Karen can organise include customs and immigration, atoll permits, diving permits, crew social events, local flights, bunkering, flying in of provisions and funds transfers to name a few.

Karen had meetings with local officials or permits organised for myself before I was even aware that I required them. As a result, I felt like I had a Marshall Islands expert as a personal assistant rather than an agent.

The Marshall Islands as a cruising destination is brilliant. The unfortunate but incredible history of the Nuclear testing by the USA in the 1940's has created ironically, a pristine environment on atolls such as Bikini and Rongelap which have only recently been opened up to yachts. We have experienced no better untouched diving as in Ronigerik and Rongelap. The fishing at these atolls is the best in the Pacific. We had an experience of trying to pull in a lure as we already had enough fish when a 20 kilo yellow fin tuna leapt from the water and took the lure only 3 m from the stern of Carl Linne.

The diving on the nuclear fleet in Bikini is breathtaking. While the diving is challenging due to the depths, the rewards are far in excess of the efforts required. The aircraft carrier Saratoga should not be missed. Diving into the aircraft hanger of this enormous ship and finding bombs, torpedoes and aircraft speaks for itself.

Kind regards
Gregory Chivers

Captain
SY Carl Linne

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