

Spars (2010)

The spars are made of Sitka spruce. When we took delivery of the boat, I knew that both masts needed a lot of work. It was clear that many of the glue joints were failing due to the long exposure to the sun (with no finish). Once in the garage and subjected to closer inspection, I found that both masts were infested with carpenter bees. So after measuring and photographing the location of all the fittings, I remove the fittings and cut the masts into pieces for disposal. Very sad day ... The plan is to either build new masts in spruce or replace with aluminum.





The mizzen boom is pristine. The main boom will have to be re-glued or replaced.

2017:

I originally thought I would build the new masts myself, but I'm now having second thoughts. The glue up is tricky and must be completed in one operation before the glue kicks. For a mast over 50 ft. long a crew of four might be needed.

I recently learned that the cost of a new wooden mast is somewhere in the neighborhood of \$20K! An aluminum extrusion might be cheaper but not when you factor in the cost of all the new hardware.

Had I know this in 2010, I might have tried to save the old mast. Still the repair would be difficult and there was the risk of the bees migrating elsewhere - to the boat or the house. So the plan is to build the mizzen mast first and see how that goes.