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## Floating Solar Workshop Sailboat Project for the Miskito Coast in Nicaragua

By Richard Komp, Director - Skyheat Associates

In December I will be going to the Miskito Coast of Nicaragua for the third short solar course I will teach there. This time I will be taking a small sailboat on an overnight trip to get to the remote workshop site.



### A small Miskito sailboat taxi coming back to port

This kind of trip in the Caribbean is becoming more common for me so it is time to start a project I have planned for a long time: This winter I will also go to the Miskito Coast of Honduras to another location not reachable by road, and I have been invited to Trinidad to teach a course at the university there. I also have people in San Andrés and along the Caribbean Coast of Colombia and Mexico who want me to come back to give workshops. We also have been asked to work in Jamaica and Haiti.



### Installing a solar electric system on a Garifuna house in a remote coastal area of Honduras.

Our biggest concern is the pirates and drug smugglers in this part of the Caribbean but Nicaragua is currently pretty

free of these marauders since the Sandinista government has taken control.

### The Donated Sailboat

What I am looking for is a boat that is between 40 and 50 feet long that could be donated by somebody or a corporation. **Skyheat Associates** is a 501(c)(3) Public Charity and the donation would be tax deductible. We are not fussy about the condition or type of boat but our criteria are floating and able to be fixed up well enough to get from Florida to the Miskito Coast of Nicaragua, where it can be fixed up better and converted to the floating workshop center. It would be good if the boat had a draft of 4 feet or less since many of the places we will be visiting have shallow inlets or bays.

The **Grupo Fenix** <http://grupofenix.org/> in Nicaragua already works in that part of the country and we have good contacts along the Miskito Coast to have this refurbishing work done properly.

### Crowdsourcing to pay for the Project

This project will take quite a bit of money, both for outfitting the boat and for the cost of all this traveling around the Caribbean. People have suggested that we try raising the money on the Internet and I think I will ask the next person who suggests this to go ahead and do it. I will give that person or group all the information where they can send the check when they are successful.

We are looking to raise \$50,000 in total for the project. Most of the places where the floating center will be giving workshops are occupied by 3<sup>rd</sup> World people who live on less than \$2 a day and the workshops will be free for them; but the project will have quite a few expenses for living costs and workshop materials. Of course in places like Akumal in Mexico have a lot of student volunteers from the 1<sup>st</sup> World who can pay for the workshop, so some of the boat's expenses will be paid that way; but in general, the project will need donated funds to operate properly. Some of the volunteers who wish to take part in this project may also have money to pay their own way.

I already have lots of people who have volunteered to help me sail around the Caribbean; but we will need volunteers to help raise money and work on the sailboat. Please feel free to contact me if you are interested.

### Contact Information, For more information or help:

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