

Seagate and Wild Blue Alaska Cruise – Thursday and Friday, June 12-13, 2008

Taku Harbor is popular and several boats we've seen along the way were there. Ten cruising boats filled up about 400 feet of side-tie dock space. Last night while the Wild Blue crew



planned their latest fish expedition, the Seagate crew had a competitive game of Scrabble. You could hear the “word discussions” across the dock! Just before bedtime we checked our traps: both were empty of crab, but full of bait. We relocated one close to the mouth of a creek in about 15 feet of water. Thursday morning, we pulled the prawn trap and netted some really big Alaskan spot prawns, but the big haul was crab.

(← *Our crab trap had 14 good size crabs.*)

The trap nearest the creek caged 14 good sized crab, 12 male keepers over the 6.5 inch limit. Finally our long sought seafood buffet will happen Thursday night in Juneau.

(← *A bucket full of large Alaskan spot prawns.*)



Seagate left early to find both boats moorage in Juneau. Wild Blue lingered until only one other boat remained. We cooked a huge *farmers* pancake, bacon and egg breakfast, the reward for landing the fish this time around.





(← Bob can't wait for Thursdays seafood buffet and decides to have spot prawn sushi.)

At noon, Wild Blue gets underway for the 20-mile run up to Juneau. The barometer has bottomed out at 1011 millibars and rain and winds are forecast. Stephens Passage, however, is calm as we continue to see many humpback whales along the way. About ten miles south of Juneau we see a salmon jump completely out of the water. We stop the boat, rig for trolling and spend an extra hour doing a 1-2 knot loop. We get one giant strike, but since it wasn't really on the hook, you could not say we *farmed* this fish. Finally we cruise into Juneau on Thursday afternoon and look for a marine fueling station.



(← Juneau is busy with five cruise ships in port.)

Wild Blue has come 1133 nautical miles from

Anacortes, Washington to Juneau, Alaska on one tank of fuel. About 250 gallons remain in our tanks. We take on on 997 gallons. We've averaged 1.14 miles per gallon which includes about 150 hours of diesel generator time, and continuous operation of the diesel furnace-hot water heater system for 31 days. So we're about as efficient as a very large recreational vehicle, just much slower.

Everybody likes crab, but Harriett craves it. A BIG crab feast was planned and the crab cleaning commenced as soon as we tied up at Harris Marina in Juneau on Thursday. With Dick, Harriett, and Alex providing crab cleaning "tips", Gerard and Bob completely ignored them, and followed J. D. Wade's *Shellfish Guide* removing the claws from the body and





washing out the bad stuff. Then with Seagate's crab cooker fired up, a pot of seawater was brought to boil. Here the recipe deviated a bit when several large scoops of Pappy's Seasoning were added to the boiling seawater, a tip from Willie Bird Farms.

*(← Gerard shows off a big crab before he "cracks its back".)*



We filled the pot with the "crab racks", once it came to boil again, we left them in for 15 minutes. Then the legs were douced in an icy water bath to keep them from overcooking. We repeated this for another batch, then using the same water, we boiled the prawns in the shell for 4 minutes. The cooked prawns were immediately douced with cold water to stop the cooking.

*(← Crab legs are dropped into boiling seawater with Pappys Seasoning.)*





(← The crab looks great and we're ready to begin the feast.)

Harriett brought along Seagate's crab crackers and crab forks, however, the real crab aficionados just break off the crab tip and pick out the tender, juicy crab meat. Dick brought a fine bottle of Penfolds and all crews got down on the crab at our seafood buffet. Delicious!



*(The Seagate and Wild Blue crews chow down on big crab in Juneau.)*

We'll be sightseeing in Juneau through Friday. The girls want to see the Menendhall Glacier again. Alex says he'll look into Wild Blue's freezer for the same affect. Then on Saturday we're off to Auke Bay for crew change on Sunday. See you there.