

Seagate and Wild Blue Alaska Cruise – Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Wow! Another clear, sunny and warm day in Alaska, just like southern California, yet we're on our way to Glacier Bay. We hope that marine forecaster keeps striking out. Westbound in Icy Strait we begin to see more and more whales. They're spouting and waving their tails. Arch

has a good camera and in "sports mode" is able to capture one of the many breaching humpback off our starboard beam.

(← Arch's fast camera catches a breaching humpback.)



(Approaching Bartlett Cove, home to the Glacier Bay Ranger Station)



After a fun-filled morning of heavy whale watching, we approach the entrance to Glacier Bay. The cruise ship Statendam steams into the Park just before us. The Ranger gives us instructions to report to their station in Bartlett Cove by staying 1-mile off the coast and not

exceeding 13 knots. After adjusting our course to comply, and we head to the Ranger Station, making sure as to avoid any whales. Surprisingly, after a morning filled with whales, we don't see any in the Park waters. We tie up and prepare for our orientation class.



(← *Wild Blue at the Glacier Bay Ranger Station dock.*)

All crew then reported to the Ranger Station. At the orientation we learned to steer around whales. They also told us not to feed the bears. After 30 minutes, we were cleared for the Park. Then the crews adjourned to Glacier Bay Lodge for a fine lunch. After steering the girls away from the gift store, we watered the boats and left for Blue Mouse Cove, about 30 miles up Glacier Bay. Although we maintained 1-mile from the coast, no whales were sighted, however the mountain views were spectacular!



(← *The Seagate and Wild Blue crews were happy to ace the Glacier Bay clearance test.*)



(← *One of the numerous spectacular views along Glacier Bay.*)

(More spectacular views from Glacier Bay.)





(← *The Spirit of Discovery* returns from viewing the Glaciers. These smaller cruise ships are the way to see Alaska up close, in case you can't get a ride on *Seagate* or *Wild Blue*. See them at www.cruisewest.com.)

At last we anchored in Blue Moose Cove, our second sunny anchorage in a row. On the way into the Cove, prawn traps were set at 300 feet. Crab traps set near creek mouths in 40 feet. The *Wild Blue* crew started fishing again, getting lots of TOW (time on the water) and more fish.

(Richard knows how to get his picture taken. Just keep bringing in the fish. This time, two bottom fish and a halibut. It's time to breakout the Foodsaver machine! Note: This is NOT a West Marine advertizing photo. →)



Well after all this fishing, it's time to do some fish eating. The Blue Mouse Cove menu aboard *Wild Blue* featured fresh caught halibut, foil wrapped and cooked in lemon juice, capers, white wine and butter, with fresh green beans and jasmine rice with shallots and peas. The menu was missing something: it's 15 over 15,000 which we hope to have tomorrow on our visit to the Glaciers. See you there.



