

Seagate and Wild Blue Alaska Cruise – Wednesday, June 18, 2008

This should be a wild and crazy day as we get up close and personal with a glacier or two. The crews sleep in until 8AM and then ride the incoming tide further into Glacier Bay. Our first destination the Marjorie Glacier at the end of Tarr Inlet. We've been warned to go into the inlet on a rising tide as this keeps the bergie bits at the upper end, away from us. It's 25 miles up to the Glacier and after being "berged out" in Tracy Arm last week, we are determined to to make the face.



(← *Staatendam of Holland Cruise Line leaves Tarr Inlet.*)

About halfway up the Inlet, we encounter Staatendam returning from her view of the Glacier.



(The Marjorie Glacier, Tarr Inlet, Glacier Bay.)

At the glacier face, the floating ice was light. Both boats were easily able to get within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, the prescribed safety limit. With the engine off, you could easily hear the cracks and groans of the glacier as it moved towards us. Suddenly a large CRACK and BOOM sound, as a good-sized piece of glacier "calves" into the ocean, creating a wave that spreads across the inlet. The bobbing ice warns us of the coming wave, but its small and easily manageable.



(Up close with the Marjorie Glacier.)



(Marjorie sheds some ice. →)



(The Bensons at the glacier.)



(Arch and Janet in front of Marjorie)



(Seagate steers hard to starboard to avoid the berg.)



(← Seagate gives the Carnival Princess a wide berth.)



(Richard harvests glacier ice.)

(15,000 year old glacier ice ready for 15 year old Jack. →)

(Wild Blue with glacier ice to go.)



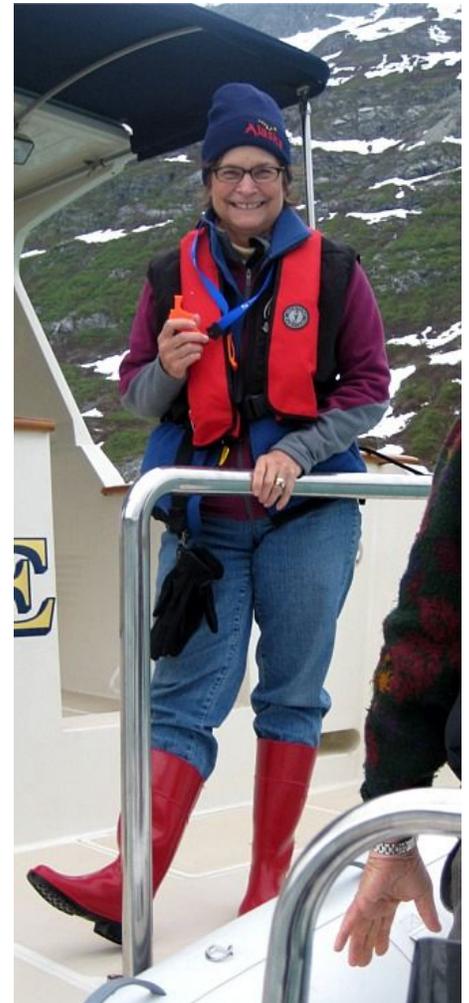


After Marjorie Glacier we were ready for more. Reid Inlet has Reid Glacier at its end and it also looks like a great place to anchor. So the boats, with glacier ice in tow, head out of Tarr Inlet and enter tiny Reid Inlet. At the head of the Inlet is Reid Glacier.

(← Richard at the base of Reid Glacier. This is definitely a hard hat zone.)



(← Lori says "I think this is close enough!")



The glacier face doesn't quite make it to the waters edge so any calving just causes ice to pile up at the glacier's base. We anchored in Reid for the night and launched our landing craft, a row boat for Seagate and tender for Wild Blue, and made our way to the glacier face.

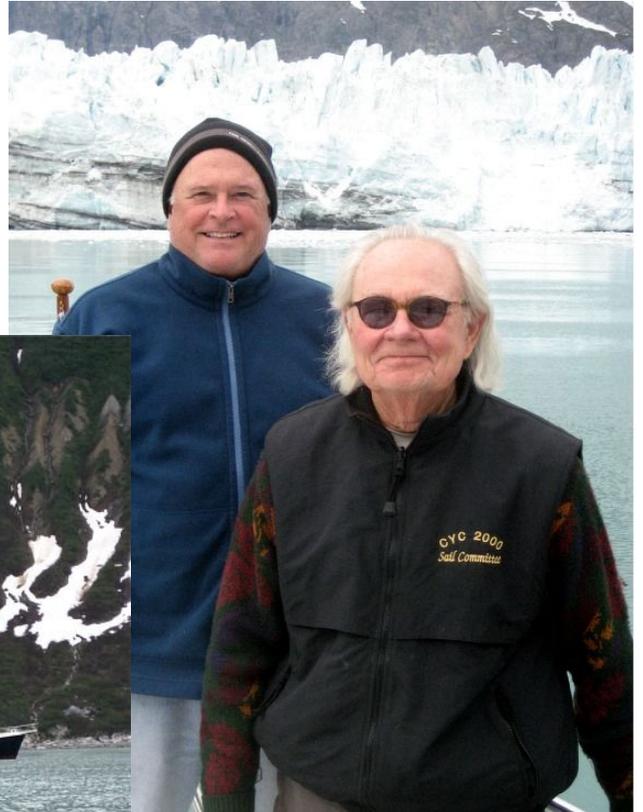
(Lori definitely knows how to dress for Glacier Bay, Alaska. → Here she displays an inflatable lifevest with MOB whistle, a bear deterrent whistle, gloves, Alaska beanie hat, and those red mud boots that are really the ticket! Those boots are also known to distract bears!)



Lori has been prepared for bear contact and has the clothing to prove it, and after we made it ashore, she took a walk around the Inlet. Along the way she documented fresh bear tracks. Rumor has it that Lori does have a native peoples ancestor.

(← Lori's fresh bear track. This is too good to be a hoax. Unsure if bears can swim, both boats will lock the doors tonight.)

(Denny and Dick are happy to be able to shut off Seagate's icemaker. They loaded up the boat with free glacier ice and celebrated with 15 over 15,000. →)



(← The boats at anchor in the chalky waters of Reid Inlet.)



(A yak attack of five girls and one guy! They were camping around the corner with the bears.) Tomorrow we rise very early to leave the Bay for Elfin Cove. Happy bear free dreams.