

## Seagate and Wild Blue Alaska Cruise – Friday-Saturday, June 20-21, 2008

Today Richard arose early and began questioning the fishing lodge guides as to where are the salmon. They said, “The kings are hitting bait 18-miles east of here.” That could only mean Point Adolphus, which happens to be on our way Hoonah, Alaska. So the crews slept in and



the boats left Elfin Cove at about 10:30 this Friday morning. The Wild Blue crew began salmon trolling at the Point while Seagate continued onto Hoonah to arrange moorage. Once again the Alaskan sun shone on our boats and it was yet another glorious day.

*(← Wild Blue makes 9 knots towards Hoonah.)*

The salmon fishing was nil: not even a bite and Wild Blue finally

pulled into Hoonah public docks just before 4PM in the space reserved for it by the Seagaters. It would be the last night aboard WB for Arch, Janet, Bill and Richard. Richard made contact with local Keith Skaflestad, who invited us all to go site seeing in his 12-passenger van. Keith is a nice guy who is an Alaskan native raised in Hoonah, a Tlingit settlement of about 1000 people.



*(← Arch's bear photo. The bear is thinking, "Arch Burger" for dinner. Maybe Arch should invest in a bigger zoom lens?)*

Keith drove the crews around the area until a Brown bear with cub was sighted, then the fun began. Arch moved in close to get a great bear photo and almost provided the bear's dinner as well. Luckily Keith, who had his trusty .375 rifle off his shoulder, has way too much experience with bear encounters and was

able to keep the bear at bay. Meanwhile, Denny stayed in the van and took some incredible eagle photos with a BIG lens.



(← Keith is the guy to look up if you visit Hoonah. Just ask anybody as most everyone is related to him, or check out his “purple” coffee house, the only one in town.)



(← This is just one of Denny’s many great eagle photos. And he didn’t have to use himself as bait either!)

(Harriett and Lori are reevaluating their position on gun control.)

After a great dinner at the Icy Strait Lodge, the crews settled in for the night, organizing taxi’s for tomorrows crew exchange. We’ve had a great week of fishing. Let’s hope the trend continues.



(← Great white “photo” hunters invade Hoonah: Dick, Harriett, Pat, Bill, Arch, Janet, Lori and Denny.)

On Saturday, Seagate prepared to add to their crew as Wild Blue went for the full crew exchange. On a typical crew exchange day, an early and quick breakfast is served and the old crew leaves for the airport. Then the bedding



*(A fine view of Glacier Bay across Icy Strait on the way to Hoonah, AK.)*



is stripped, washed and dried, the heads are cleaned, the beds are remade and the boat is cleaned and vacuumed. Of course all this takes a bit of time to complete and the new crew sometimes arrives to see their hosts scurrying through these cleaning tasks. All went pretty well in Hoonah as the boats were mostly ready when the new, fresh crew arrived. Then it was off to the local market to stock up for another week of outstanding cruising.

*(← Boat host trying to look busy while first mate is busy cleaning.)*

After provisioning food, drink, ice, water, bait, and tackle, the boats are ready for our cruise down Chatham Strait to Warm Springs bay on Baronof Island. It's almost 70 miles with adverse current so we're leaving at 5AM. Goodnight.



*(Seagate just off Hoonah.)*