

Seagate and Wild Blue Alaska Cruise – Monday and Tuesday, July 7-8, 2008

The Wild Blue crew is back in Alaska again after a week-long visit to Familyland and an Independence Day celebration. The Seagaters are enjoying Alaska so much they just won't leave, and just relished the sun and the fireworks right here in Ketchikan. The skies are now cloudy and rainy as we continue our trip into Adventureland.



*(Bon Voyage pizza party with heavy cocktails on the Seagate.)*

Last evening, the Seagaters hosted a “bon voyage” cocktail and pizza party. Every body was invited including the Wild Blue and Lady Anne crews (Lady Anne, a Navigator 54, joins the cruise on July 18 in Queen Charlotte City), and even Dick’s tennis partner from Malibu, Art Capp. There were so many people aboard the Seagate, we were sure a few of the cruise ship visitors had joined us. If those Squires keep running into more boating friends they’re going to need a bigger boat: a good reason to order that new 68-foot Offshore!



So Monday morning required a slow recovery from the partying, more provisioning, and a last minute visit to the fish hatchery for new crew. We finally pulled away from Ketchikan City Float at 1:30PM and headed for the fuel dock. After ½-hour and a 500 gallon tank top-off, both boats were ready for another 1000 miles of cruising.

*(← Seagate plows through Revillagigedo Channel on the way to Foggy Bay.)*

At last we motored out of Tongass Narrows towards Foggy Bay, just north of the Alaskan-Canadian border, a destination of about 35 miles. The seas were bumpy but manageable, the wind was 10-15 out of the southeast, and it was raining. The bumpy seas and gray skies did nothing to dampen the spirits of the new crews and upon arrival in the Bay the Wild Blue crew dropped fishing lines.



Foggy Bay was just gray today, but full of boats headed north to Ketchikan. There were nine boats including ours and all of us anchored in calm water almost completely surrounded by land.

*(← It's amazing how close you can get to these eagles up here. Oh wait, this was in the Ketchikan fish hatchery, and you'd need more than an Unlawful Detainer to these well-fed eagles to leave.)*

Monday was a great restart day for our cruise and we continued on early Tuesday, leaving Foggy Bay at 6AM for Prince Rupert, BC. So as we are crossing into Canada, all things "custom" come to mind. We realized that the Wild Blue was chuck full of beer, wine and liquor, also now understood why the liquor was flowing so freely at Seagate's Bon Voyage Party back in the USA. Why I bet

Seagate is a totally dry boat today in anticipation of a Canadians Customs search, Dick being a fugative (in Mexico) and all.



*(← Seagate always finds a reason to "blow it out". Here her skipper holds back the diesel throttles to a mere 12 knots for "a liittle change of pace".)*

After 50 miles ending with the snaking Venn Passage, we enter Prince Rupert Harbor. On our way to Alaska in May, the crews spent 3 days here and fully explored the city, but this place is totally new to our crews.

*(The Fortune is still waiting for containers in Prince Rupert harbor. I think she was anchored here in May too. →)*





Yes, two new crews have joined the boats for the Queen Charlotte Islands portion. Joining Dick and Harriett on Seagate are Norman and Trish Angus of Connecticut.

(← *Norman and Trish Angus, Harriett and Dick. In Prince Rupert.*)

The Angus's, who are lifelong boaters, have vast boating skills and are veteran Seagate crew, having cruised last summer aboard in Canada's Gulf Islands. Trish snapped that great photo of the Seagate skipper enjoying those BIG Canadian prawns (see Alaska Blog #2.)



(← *The Fairview Terminal dock in Prince Rupert. Wild Blue is about to side-tie to Seagate.*)



(← *The boats are side-tied in Prince Rupert Harbour.*)

The Wild Blue crew this week are the Benson's Simi Valley friends Jan, Jerry and Justin Watkins. Although not regular boaters, this is the third cruise for the Watkins on Wild Blue. Jerry is a school administrator and Jan is a court reporter, and Justin, age 11, is a future oceanographer. Jan and Pat



met 50 years ago while attending Inglewood grammar school. Jan should know better than to be picking friends at age 5 and now, a half-century later, is stuck with her selection. At least Alex waited until his 30's.

(← Jerry, Justin and Jan Watkins, the new Wild Blue crew, enjoy a break in the rains of Prince Rupert.)

Great news: Wild Blue made it through Canadian Customs, with most spirits in remaining in the bottle. Cheers!



(← Cow Bay and Smiles Café → the two best places in PR.)



(Hey Pat look at this cool dock garden.)

