

Seagate and Wild Blue Alaska Cruise – Saturday, August 2, 2008

It's the last day of the Alaska Cruise. Tomorrow the boats split: Lady Anne crosses the border into Washington, the San Juan Islands and then down the coast to Portland, Oregon; Seagate heads to Roche Harbor, Washington and then on to Anacortes to prepare for a trip down the Coast to Los Angeles; and Wild Blue moves onto Sidney, BC and will eventually look for winter moorage in the Pacific Northwest.



Today's cruise is short: 26 miles to Montague Harbour on Galiano Island. The Harbour is a BC Provincial Park and a big anchorage.

(← *Wild Blue exits Nanaimo.*)

It will need to be BIG to accommodate a Saturday crowd on a BC's 150-Year Provincial Anniversary, 3-day weekend, with the weather sunny and warm.



(← *Tug Caballero sorts logs to be sent to the mill.*)



(← *Dodd Narrows is busy today.*)

Our 10AM departure coincides with slack tide at Dodd Narrows about 5 miles south of Nanaimo. David is photographing on the docks and nearly misses Seagate's departure. He must be using last year's tide and current tables.



(← Lots of boat traffic for the Narrows today.)

On the south side of Nanaimo is a Weyerhaeuser lumber mill. Logs are fed to the mill from ships and log tows. The log tows are disassembled for sorting along the shore just north of Dodd Narrows. Several tugs can be seen sorting logs in close to shore as we pass.



(Above: *Wild Blue* enters skinny Dodd Narrows going south.)

The Narrows is always busy at slack, but today it has to be at peak boat volume. Boats are in line on the north and south sides, and south moving traffic has priority. We queue up behind the cabin cruiser Friendship IV just ahead and plan to follow him through. VHF radio announcements warn opposing traffic that boats are entering. "Securitee, Securitee, 60 foot motor vessel Wild Blue, followed by 60-foot motor vessel Seagate entering Dodd Narrows southbound." Just after our announcement, the boat just ahead starts a slow left turn. We think he is bailing out, but his turn becomes a full 360, and he slots in between Wild Blue and Seagate. Dick corrects the Securitee call and we safely push through the Narrows with Friendship IV between us. So much for friendship!

After the excitement at the Narrows, it's a pleasant trip to Montague Harbour. We are amazed at the over 200 boats anchored here. Lady Anne leaves late and for the first time we beat her to a destination. Our group finds a spot on the edge of the crowd and we set the anchor in about 45 feet. There is little breeze and no swell so this is a great anchorage.



(Above: Just a portion of the over 200 boats anchored in Montague Harbour today.)



(Above: Seagate and Lady Anne anchored near the outside of the pack.)



(← Wild Blue finds a spot on the edge but close by.)

As soon as the boats are secure, the tenders and toys are launched. David and Penny begin kayaking (yaking) around while Dick and Harriett take a harbor cruise in the tender. Alex and Sid head for the small pub restaurant just in Montague Marina. Sleemans is the southern BC favorite so the boys have a couple cool ones and fit right in. The Lady Anne crew also went for a ride amongst the 200 boats.

There was a unique boat in Montague Harbour that shows up for Thursday through Sunday only. It's *Atrevida* the fresh bakery ferry. The ferry was in service around the Canadian Gulf



Island in the 1930's through 1960's. It sat in disrepair until a few years back when a couple bought the ferry and converted it for living aboard, and added a commercial kitchen.

(← *David and Penny “yaking” around the anchorage.*)

It's now a floating home and bakery. The wife gets up at 4AM each morning and bakes. Boaters line up in their tenders starting at 7AM to buy the fresh-baked goodies. Don't YOU like to bake, Pat?

(← *A floating home and on the water bakery business anchored at Montague Harbour.*)



(← *Lady Anne enjoys the last day the boats will be cruising together.*)



(← *The Alaska cruisers L to R: Marge, Harriett, David, Penny, Ed, Dick, Sid and Hugh celebrate Dick's 76th birthday on Seagate.*)



(← *The birthday boy in front of his cake.*)

(*The cake was an assortment of Nanaimo bars and other goodies.* →)



What a great way to end the Alaska cruise, on your birthday. Dick was saying he just turned 59. Or was it 69? Oh what's 10 years when you're up here in the stratosphere anyway?

(← *Seagate enjoys the sun setting over Montague Harbour, British Columbia as our cruise comes to a close.*)

This is the last Seagate and Wild Blue Alaska Cruise Blog. It was great fun reporting on our adventures. Thank you crew and readers for coming along with us.

END OF BLOG

Here are some footnotes:

- As you might have figured, we seldom reported any bad news.
- Several halibut photos (Willie and Vince) have been requested and were sent to *Passagemaker Magazine* for a story about fishing off trawler style yachts. We'll send an email around when and if those photographs make the magazine.
- All the Blogs will be placed on a web page for viewing. When operational we will email you the web page address, just in case you want to relive the experience!
- In September, Seagate will be cruising down the Pacific Coast from Anacortes, Washington to Los Angeles, California. Many of the Alaska crew will be aboard for the cruise. A SEAGATE PACIFIC COAST CRUISE BLOG will most likely be distributed to the email list.



Sea monsters? Late in the evening in Montague Harbor, these odd-looking sea creatures were swimming around the stern of the Wild Blue. The boat's underwater lights were lighted and attracted them. They squirm like eels or snakes. The ones above were from 12 to 18" long. If anyone (such as zoologist Karen Almas) has an idea what they may be, please chime in.