

Seagate and Wild Blue Alaska Cruise – Sunday, June 8, 2008



There's a new crew aboard Wild Blue. It's Bob and Tina Semonsen, and Gerard and Peggy Ages, both from Los Osos. Bob and Gerard are general contractors and among their many projects are the Baywood Inn and the Benson's SLO home.

(← L to R: Bob and Tina Semonsen, Gerard and Peggy Ages, and Pat.)

These WB crew are ocean people: they dive, surf, fish, swim, sail, play beach volleyball and even sing the Beach Boys songs! They came equipped with guitar, fishing

tackle and pole, and wet suit. In fact Gerard wasn't on the boat half-a-day before he donned his wetsuit and went diving.

(Gerard is happiest when he's in the water. →)

As soon as the crew arrived last night, talk turned to fishing and how Willie's record 53.7 pound, 48-inch halibut record will fall this week! We immediately went online and purchased fishing licenses for Alex, Dick, Dave, Bob and Gerard. We left Wrangell today at troll speed, 1-3 knots. Seagate trolled on course, Wild Blue trolled the points and capes. We did baited hooks and salmon flasher mooching. The fish are around and we spent extra miles dodging the gill-netters, however, we think those netters kept the fish from our bait, and unfortunately, there were no bites





along the way.

(← Goodbye Wrangell. We had a great time.)

After leaving Wrangell we headed for Wrangell Narrows, which is the seawater highway to Petersburg and eventually Juneau.



(← Wild Blue enters Wrangell Narrows.)

The Narrows is 21 miles long and has 61 navigation marks and is traveled by yachts, cruise ships, tugs with barges, and larger ferries. All eyes aboard Seagate and Wild Blue helped to identify, catalog and check off each mark as it was passed on the correct side. We completed the Narrows with its strange currents and entered one of the Petersburg marinas for the night.



(← Seagate and Wild Blue over-nighted in a Petersburg fishing marina.)

Petersburg is a clean and wonderful small town with

Norwegian culture and heritage. Petersburg is known as the halibut capital of Alaska and its economy depends on fishing and fish processing. Commercial and sports fishing boats dominate the marinas. Tourism has also started to increase with the arrival of the small cruise ships like those of www.cruisewest.com. Visitors are treated to many shops on the town pretty streets.



(← Besides being the halibut capital of Alaska, Petersburg offers tourism alternatives.)

It was cold when we arrived at the marina, but that didn't stop the Wild Blue crew from fishing. Once Bob, Gerard and Alex layered up, they set off to fish the northern part of Wrangell Narrows.



(← The boys go “cold weather” fishing in Seagate’s tender.)

The fishing was not spectacular. In “fish speak”, we didn't hook a *flattie* (halibut) or *toad* (large fish), but we weren't *rendered fishless*, and couldn't be classed as *farmers* (unable to land a fish), and we did get several flounders *in the box* (landed in the boat). However we also hooked many bullheads, which were thrown back.



(← Petersburg celebrates its Norwegian heritage.)

Tomorrow we head for Fanshaw anchorage in Cleveland Passage, a 38 mile run. The weather is holding and the sun continues to shine.