

Seagate and Wild Blue Alaska Cruise – Sunday, July 20, 2008

It's oh dark-hundred hours with Wild Blue and Lady Anne preparing for their 45-mile cruise to Thurston Harbour where Seagate awaits them. The sky is gray with clouds and light rain but the wind is also light, so far. Once again we play the "Go North to Go South" game, up Skidegate Inlet, across the shallow bar, then south towards our destination. It takes 10 miles to go one, and then finally we're moving south in sloppy seas, with a 1/2-knot current in our favor.



*(Wild Blue enters Anna Inlet with Lady Anne and Seagate anchored inside.)*

While Wild Blue maintains their bouncy 9-knot pace, Lady Anne heats up their twin diesels for 15 knots, zooming past Louise Island towards Seagate. Lady Anne soon reaches Seagate by VHF radio and all boats agree to move further down to Anna Inlet, which is better protected from the expected storm, another 15 miles beyond Thurston. Seagate and Lady Anne lead the way arriving in the Inlet and anchoring to await Wild Blue.



*(← The view from the inside looking out the narrow entrance. Light rain has started with some wind gusts.)*

At last all boats are snugly anchored, awaiting anything the weather can dish out ... and Mother Nature obliges. The Lady Anne crew head ashore for a hike with Hugh staying aboard. While there, the wind builds nearing 30 knots from the easterly quadrant. All three boats begin dragging their anchors across Anna Inlet. Lady Anne is leading this race and to prevent a catastrophe, Hugh has to start engines, power away from shore, then re-anchor the boat with more chain. Wild Blue drags about 150 feet before



(← Doe and fawn on shore eating algae greet Wild Blue on entering Anna Inlet)

realizing it and releasing another 100-feet of chain, allowing the anchor to re-set. Likewise Seagate drags her anchor about a 100 feet before more chain is played out. The high winds lasts less than an hour, and then light winds prevail, although the boat crews remain on edge. The light rain continues on and off and the storm plays out. Before the day is done, Dick from Seagate visits Wild Blue for a DVD exchange, ready for something besides chick flicks and “My Mother’s New Boyfriend”, which has ruined Meg



Ryan’s career. To counteract the chick flicks, we provide “Hunt for the Red October” and “PBS’s “The War”. Those kinds of movies could turn anyone into a Republican!

(← Lady Anne has re-anchored after the big wind.)

After the storm, the water of Anna Inlet is like a mirror reflecting all images.

*(The reflected shoreline from afar and up close.)*





*(← The camera lens isn't big enough to get both Seagate and the mountain peak in the photo. You'll just have to visit Anna Inlet yourself.)*

*(After dragging her anchor, Lady Anne prefers to drop the hook in weather like this.)*



Tomorrow we move south down the Queen Charlottes to Ikeda Cove, just about a 4-hour cruise. The graves of three Japanese men are there, result of a mining accident in the 1920's. It should be interesting.