

Seagate and Wild Blue Alaska Cruise – Monday, July 21, 2008

It's a beautiful sunny morning in Anna Inlet, the first in many days here in the Charlottes. The crews are up at 8AM with Hugh, Dick and Alex discussing today's cruise plan. Hugh is concerned that his fuel supply is too low for another five days of cruising. He elects to return 60 miles to Sandspit Marina and fill his tanks, then meet us Tuesday at Rose Harbour at the



southern end of the Islands. We wish our best to Lady Anne on her return cruise. Meanwhile Seagate and Wild Blue will head for Ikeda Cove. The boats pull their anchors at leave beautiful Anna Inlet.

*(← It's just as pretty outside of Anna Inlet today. Here's a view of the shoreline along Juan Perez Sound.)*



*(← Even Wild Blue's wake is interesting in today's sunlight.)*

It's an awesome day to cruise down Juan Perez Sound. The glassy waters reflect the entire shoreline so one receives double the eye-pleasure. Later a slight breeze picks up but the smooth water makes for a comfortable motor cruise. We take a glance at the Seagate and can't help but notice her port list.

*(Seagate has an unusual port list [leaning]. →)*

Now we know that some of those aboard have a left leaning political view, however, this doesn't seem the appropriate



way to display one's opinion. Over the VHF radio "Seagate this is Wild Blue calling. Besides your political opinion, is there another reason Seagate is listing to port?" "Wild Blue, Seagate here. There is a second reason, we just haven't located it yet." After 10 minutes the call comes back "Wild Blue this is Seagate. We do have a problem. We are quite low on fuel and will need to return to fill our tanks. See you in Rose Harbour on Tuesday." "Seagate, Wild Blue. Have a safe cruise north and see you soon." After that Seagate performed a nice 180 (boat talk for U-turn) and headed 70 miles north to Sandspit Marina, hopefully connecting with Lady Anne. And with that, the Wild Blue was left all alone in the big, wide ocean with no other boats in site.

With no one to shadow the Wild Blue, and the prospect of anchoring near graves in the lonely, secluded Ikeda Cove, a decision was reached to abandon Ikeda, and continue another hour to Rose Harbour. The ocean cooperated with flat seas and just a little adverse current. Except for the increased amount of bull kelp, requiring a constant lookout and zigzag steering, it was a fine cruise.

Bull kelp clogs the waterways all over the Queen Charlotte Islands. When bunched together and growing up from the ocean floor it can be an indicator of shallow water or a reef. Probably due to rugged weather, large amounts of bull kelp have broken free of the bottom and float around looking for keels, fins and propellers to foul. Sometimes this free kelp intertwines together and forms what we call a "kelp island". When snagged on a fin, keel or prop, kelp slows the boat, so when you see a boat zigzagging it's not a WWII torpedo evasion course: it's a waterway full of kelp. Once "kelped", as we call it, a quick solution is to stop the boat, then go in reverse slow speed for a bit. Loose kelp falls off while that which doesn't requires a chilly dive to cut or untangle it. Good thing Pat is a better swimmer than Alex.



(← Big Canadian Park mooring can is easy to connect to boat. Wild Blue is connected up below.)

We soon arrived at Rose Harbour and are delighted to see 3 empty park moorings. Alex maneuvers the boat next to the mooring can, Pat using the stern swim step inserts a line through the loop on top of the can, then walks the line forward as Alex backs the boat, then attaches each end of the line to the hawser on each side of the bow. Presto, we're moored in a pretty cove surrounded by birds, kelp, private homes, a yacht or two, and kayakers on the beach.





*(Since Lady Anne and Seagate have deserted us, we'll be replacing them with Marlinda, our other neighbor here in Rose Harbour. →)*



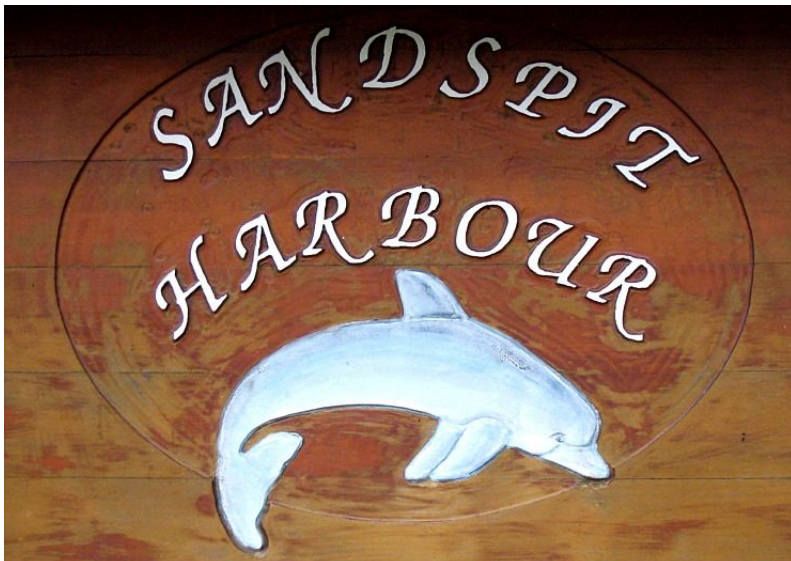
*(← Nice corner lot on the water here in Rose Harbour →.)*



*(These seagulls are our new neighbors here in Rose Harbour.)*

Tomorrow we hope to see Lady Anne and Seagate here. For now we'll have to chat amongst ourselves, and the seagulls. I hope the gulls receive VHF radio.





Meanwhile Lady Anne and Seagate are enjoying their smooth ride to Sandspit Harbour. They arrive safely just in time for the fuel dock to open at 6PM. The expanded summer hours for the fuel dock are 7-9AM and 6-9PM.

(← Remember this is Canada, a British Colony so it's "harbour" with a "u".)

Luckily the dock has enough capacity and we hear there is a celebration amongst the townsfolk for the two largest fuel sales of the summer.



*(Tiny Sandspit Harbour is a quiet and pleasant marina.)*



Then the two boat crews arrange a late night dinner for eight at the Sandspit Inn Restaurant, highly recommended by the Wild Blue crew. Word has gotten around town about those BIG fuel purchases and the proprietor keeps the dining room open after hours to accommodate the crews. After tasty main courses, the evening is topped off by the now famous Bumbleberry Pie, who some have renamed Humbleberry Pie. With the chef's compliments an entire pie is served to the table, and there's no one better trained to cut the pie than a physician. See you in Rose Harbour.

(← Hugh volunteers his physician expertise to cut the pie.)