

Seagate and Wild Blue Alaska Cruise – Friday, August 1, 2008



A new day, a new month and just two days until this cruise ends. Today we have a leisurely cruise to Nanaimo, a city on the east side of Vancouver Island and famous for its annual bathtub races.

(← *Lady Anne flies again.*)

This is a straightforward if long 75-mile cruise day. Biggest thing will be the traffic and especially ferries.



(← *Seattle based Discovery Star is a fish processing ship on her way home from Alaska.*)

We get a normal 10AM start and leave Campbell River with the current against us. About 5 miles along, off Cape Mudge, we run across numerous sportfishers and slow so we don't badly wake them. All is well for many miles, then on AIS we see a 150-foot ship called *Discovery Star* approaching from behind. After following us for an hour, she increases her speed a bit and seems to be moving right up on our stern. Dick who is the following Wild Blue is concerned and calls Alex. Alex calls the *Discovery Star* on VHF to alert the captain to our position. The captain's radio etiquette seems of the lesser-experienced type (maybe he's just a seaman taking over the day watch while the real captain sleeps). Even though our course takes us a safe ½ miles distance from the reef, we offer to change our course so the bigger ship can give the reef



(Above: The new BC Ferries built in Germany promote Vancouver's 2010 Olympics.)



*(Above: Wild Blue enters Nanaimo, BC via Newcastle Island Passage, Nanaimo's back door.)*

an even wider berth. After we change 20 degrees, the Discovery Star passes us, and then the reef at over 1 ½ mile distance. We believe this was surely overkill, or the sign of an

inexperienced helmsman. At any rate, it all turned out OK.



*(← Wild Blue and Lady Anne at Nanaimo.)*

The remainder of this cruise was uneventful with one exception. While cruising close to shore, to avoid the Canadian Navy Torpedo test range known as Whiskey Gulf, we turned on the laptop wi-fi card, and connected to someone's home network and downloaded all our email. Don't tell anybody.

*(← Penny wants a small retirement business. She liked this one for the name.)*



We entered Nanaimo via Departure Bay, dodging an outgoing BC Ferry, then used the Nanaimo Harbor back

door entrance, Newcastle Island Passage. The city of Nanaimo continues to grow. We enjoy this little city and it has become a favorite for retirees. Tomorrow we move to our final anchorage before our cruise ends and the boats split to go their separate ways.



← *Nanaimo skyline continues to boom.*)



← *Waterfront condos are everywhere in Nanaimo.*)



← *This nice complex is adjacent to the downtown marina. On a prior cruise, Pat picked out one of the rooftop penthouse units for her retirement as it has lots of gardening space. Alex will sleep on the boat.*)