

Friday, March 24, 1995

West End

At about 1:00 A.M. Mort & I were awakened by howling wind in the Cassarenas that line the shore. That & the high tide made him have ^{to} readjust lines & lumps. After he was done he had no problem getting back to sleep, content that we were secure in a very protected marina, and only one ^{travel} day away from the U.S.

We awoke in A.M. praying that Bill & Di would stay in Sale Cay, Cause, it's really howling here and the ocean would be horrible for them to negotiate.

Mort washed the boat of the accumulated ash we always get in Marsh Harbour. It took him 4 full hours to do her top to bottom. She is gleaming & the decks are showing some pink. (They always get black in Marsh Harbour.)

I did the accumulated laundry. It made up 6 loads of wash (we do only a small load compared to a household washer). I reset all furniture & the things that we move to travel since we know we will be here a couple of days.

We called for Wind Minstral on the VHF all day as the winds worsened. People coming off the ocean & said that the trip from Lake Worth was like sailing mountains. We were so afraid that Bill & Di would have a real problem if they came. By 4:00 P.M. we stopped worrying. It was apparent that they stayed in Sale Cay.

158
3. 24. 95 Cont.

In the late A.M. We took a good size walk.

For dinner I made the best Shrimp Zambucca I ever made, with pecan rice.

Another Great Day!!

Saturday, March 25, 1995

West End, Bahamas

We awake to the knowledge that Di & Zill would come today. Wind out of the NE 15 knots. Perfect for a sailboat.

Early A.M. Mot did a little varnish and cleaned the shower sump. I did MORE Laundry. One more day & I be caught up.

At 9:30 we went for a ~~real~~ really long walk. It is a thrill that at this point in time my knees & back feel almost normal. Now if I can get my ~~feet~~ heels feeling normal. Wow! (Having arthritis in the feet, but I feel so grateful that things are not worse.) We walked to the ocean then walked to the bank and walked on the beach. As we returned, and passed the Marina Office, Ira came out to say Wind Minstral was calling us on VHF to say they would be in around 3:00. We were very excited that they would soon be back in our company.

They came through the reef safe & sound.

3-25 Con't

They came aboard for an early cocktail and we made arrangements to go to the Buccaneer on Grand Bahama for dinner. The restaurant is 10⁺ miles from West End on Jack Tar Marina.

We showered, dressed & waited for our ride. A Bahamian Bus owned & operated by Willbert, otherwise known as FAT BOY.

He was a local entrepreneur (the wind is blowing my page). He said he was a dealer in shells, tropical fish and Conch pearls. He told us he had made 4 shipments, but yet has not been paid for one. However, he is "up" and hopeful that he'll make a fortune doing this.

Dinner was wonderful, but quite expensive.* We were back in the marina by 10:00 and visiting with the said man by 10:30.

* Most had Surf & Turf. Me too!

Sunday, 3-26-95

West End

The Winds are not yet right for leaving. We plan to do a meal with Wind Minstral.

Turkey & Salad by Diane Biggs & Cornbread Sausage stuffing by Estelle Lyons. It took much of the morning to prepare, and then Mort & I went on the longest walk I've done since 1992 when we did pretty much the same walk with Bobbie Collier ^{Felt} great! Dinner was superb & we all crashed early

Monday, March 27, 1995

West End, Bahamas to
Lake Worth, Palm Beach
Florida, U. S. A.

Everyone was up at 4:00 A.M. The boats were pulling out all night since the weather & seas should be good today for a crossing.

We were away from the pier at 6:45 A.M. in the company of Wind Minstral (actually they took off about 45 minutes earlier. We didn't see them the entire trip except on Radar. They were too far south, expecting a push from the Gulf Stream that for some reason never happened.

The winds were out of the South West and we did from 7 to 9 knots all the way over. Nothing like the 11 knots we got crossing from Rodriguis.

We decided to skip Sailfish Marina because of noise, current and cost. Instead we called Reibovich-Spencer and arranged a slip. They are located South of the inlet on the West side of the ICW. We had the "T" pier on the Southern most ^{dock} pier. Very easy to get into and hopefully easy to get out of. Everything will depend on the wind when we leave.

Bill & Di were on the same pier, but perpendicular to us.

We arrived at the slip at 2:05 P.M.

After a rest & a shower we went to the Crab Pot restaurant (by cab) for a great dinner of Maine

3-27-95 Con't.

Lobster (me) and Blue Claw-Crabs (most).
The place was very noisy, but the food was fantastic.

We were home by 10:00^{P.M.} and out like a light.

Notes:

* A very good Crossing because of the stabilizers. The waves were 4 feeters, everything on the beam and we only wallowed. We never rolled.

Tuesday, March 28, 1995

Palm Beach to Fort Lauderdale

We hadn't slept well because of the noises we were not used to. Airplanes, trains, fire engines, police sirens. Wow talk about noise pollution. It was never truly quiet as it is every night in the Bahamas.

The weather & wind are perfect for leaving. Variable less than 10 knots.

We were away from the slip at 7:50 A.M.
The trip was superb. We had a big orange sunrise, we saw Portuguese Man-o-War, pelicans in flocks flying low over the water, dolphins, flights of Ibis and ^{great} Blue Herons (There are not many birds of these varieties in the Bahamas.) The seas were less than 2 feet. A really great run. Even the inlet at Port Everglades was easy. The stabilizers are worth their weight in gold in such situations. (Boats at full tilt in both directions