

Wednesday, June 15, 1994

Rodriguez Key

I awoke at 5:00^{A.M.} to catch today's forecast. It is blowing at this time harder than yesterday, and the prediction is ^{wind} 10-15 K, ^{wave} 2-4 feet, which will of course be higher in the Gulf Stream.

I roused Mort at 6:00 gave him the forecast and he mumbled, "no go", and rolled over to go back to sleep. We have an open end on time; we are provisioned for a year, so what's the rush? We want a smooth Gulf Stream crossing.

It is a very pretty place to be "stuck".

This A.M. Mort yarnished (first sanded) the outer edges of the pilot house door. I straightened made Crab Salad to chill for lunch and wrote some letters.

For about an hour before lunch we sat on the fantail and chatted and watched the seascape. We had a huge rainbow from North to South over Key Largo. I took video of it and hope it shows up to advantage. I'm still learning to use the camera (what it will do, and what it won't).

Lunch for Mort was crab salad & orange tomatoes. For me it was Crudité w/ ranch dressing and a can of Garden of Eatin'.

After lunch we played a two handed game of Rummy Tiles. My win. It may be our last two handed game.

After the game we took a swim, dried off on the back deck, and then a nap. I dozed

June 15, 1994 Con't.

for 10 minutes. A 5 to 15 minute nap is all I ever need to feel refreshed. (Sometimes I wonder why I feel well after a brief nap, but all washed out after a long one.)

It is now 3:45 P.M. and Mort is 45 minutes into his nap. An Hour usually sets him up for a good afternoon & evening.

It is lovely here. The temperature on my outdoor thermometer is 89° the breeze is 12⁰⁺ knots out of the east, the sky is 1/10 white billowing clouds on a blue canvas. It's wonderful that you can't overdose on beauty. At this moment we are alone in the anchorage.

Note: Sometime around 1:00 our phone rang. We couldn't get an answer when we picked up. We thought Carol was trying to reach us. We gave her a call to find that this was not the case. She spoke, however, of some bills she received & paid; and told us that Jim is down with the 24 hour stomach virus. We pray he is better soon!!!

Tonight dinner will probably be Ham Steak, (cherred) Apple Sauce & pickled beets.
Dinner was excellent. Delicious!

We again caught the breeze, after the Gen was shut off, until 9:00 P.M. (which seems to be the latest we're able to hold out.

Thursday, June 16, 1994

Rodriguez & Holding

It's still blowing, and it looks like we'll be here for days. This A.M. we had a few brief showers. They washed some of the salt of the boat.

It's amazing to watch the showers develop at a distance and then move in on us. Sometimes we can have a shower on each side of the boat, and the boat itself is perfectly dry. Days like that make for beautiful rainbows. When it is windy like it is the showers move through quickly.

At the moment Mort is inventing a new holder for our shower head. A minor job that on a boat could take all day. Well, we're not going anywhere soon, so why not.

This time confined together has been wonderful. We are both making a successful effort to avoid pushing the wrong buttons.

Mort is as relaxed as I have ever seen him. Please Dear God, let it continue!

written on
← gulf stream
shakes.

Played Rumony tiles before lunch. Mort felt he deserved to relay since he did one job to completion. Our second ~~single~~ double handed game. I won. This A.M. Mort made a holder for our shower head. The original one was breaking. Looked like metal, actually was plastic. Job # 1 done well.

June 16, Cont.

After lunch we swam & Mort took his snorkel & mask to clean the water line below the transom. He no sooner had his head in, than he popped up to say there was a huge ^{green} angel fish under the boat. I got my mask on and went to look, but it was gone.

After our swim & Mort's 2nd job ~~is~~ well done, we layed on the aft deck. Mort put the covers up so we cut the sunlight by 30%. I read, he dozed, we chatted. We rubbernecked a 3 more boats came into the anchorage.

The waves also seem to be subsiding. Maybe it will let down long enough for us to cross.

Dinner was Boneless, skinless chicken thighs with Pinolas, Mandarin oranges and Grand Marnier. Num, Num. Also a tomato salad w/ orange toms.

The wind ^{has} subsided as we depart for bed at 9:00 P.M.

We pray it's a "go" tomorrow.

Friday, June 17, 1994 Rodrigues to Cat Cay

It was calm all night. Time for Gulf Stream to lay down. Forecast wind ESE 10-15 knots 2-4 ft. Same in Gulf Stream.

Our anchor was up at 6:50 A.M. At 7:45 we had passed Malassas Reef Marker.

Fri, June 17, 1994 Con't.

It's mostly sunny although we came through a light sprinkle just before we got in the Gulf Stream. The water is more confused and wavy than we had expected, although we feel the boat can handle it because of the stabilizers.

It's 9:25 A.M. and we are doing 11 knots. This means that we are in the stream, and the boat is doing a tremendous Hobby Hosing. We are pitching, but not rolling. This is definitely not the waves & water we expected to find. This would be very uncomfortable & scary without the stabilizers. So much for NOAA! Mort is really furious at this surprise.

At about 10:30 it calmed down somewhat. This more like we expected. Now the trip may not be too bad.

At 11:30 rain is threatening. We can see this large cell on the radar. (about 4 miles x 2 miles wide, and it looks like the south edge will catch us on this course. Just missed us. but very tense going.

At noon another squall threatened. At 12:10 we saw a water spout develop on its northern edge. This is a large and dense storm cell.

We took evasive action by altering course. This cell 5' x 10' on radar. We got some ^{heavy} wave action and some rain but just from the fringe.