

Tuesday, May 18, 1993

The Bark to Chub Cay

We had a fairly restful night considering that we bounced the "open anchorage bounce".

We were both awake at 11:30 for water (After effects of jugged up Dirty Moors.) Then we awoke again at 4:00 for rain. - Windows had to be closed, but it was a light shower. We had, however, been sleeping soundly.

The bank was dark, there will be a new moon on the 21<sup>st</sup>. The only lights were from the lighthouses on Cat, Gen, and a soft pink glow from Birini, approx 15M. away. Not one other boat anywhere in view. This was a wee bit awe inspiring.

We dozed again until 5:30 when I got up to do my A.M. ritual of Vitamins, Coffee and my book. Mort joined me at 6:00 A.M. At 7:23 the Jerry was rising. The Engines were on (with three trigs on the Port) at 7:28 and the Anchor was up + secured without incident at 7:45 A.M.

We have 65 n.m. to cover today. It is cloudy with a few splashes of sunshine. The wind is 10-15K out of the S.E. (My check with the HAM net indicates we may have thunder showers today - I hope not)

Because of the shallow bank & a short chop, we are getting a rougher ride today than we did yesterday on the Gulf Stream.

It is 10:45 and we are still absolutely alone on the Bark. (Yesterday we saw a small buff sailboat - Lucky Lady and had a brief chat on the VHF as we passed each other at about 1/2 mile distance.) (Today, so far, we have seen only one other boat and he was going in the opposite direction at about 4 miles distance.) This is very unusual and gives us the feeling that there is no one in the Bahamas.

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at 10:00 Mort tried to begin the water maker. It is rejecting the water. Mort will back flush it at his his next engine room check.

This is not a pretty day. Very overcast. We are just beginning to see signs on the radar, and hear conversations on the VHF, that indicate We Are Not Alone.

We are only making 7 knots on the Bank. At this rate we won't be in the area of Club Cay Club Marina until 6:00  $\pm$ . Mort picked up the RPM's a little to 2000.

We, I can tell, are very tired. If Club Cay Club is taking transients we will probably stay several nights.

We spoke to a sportfish, Hawk Eye, and he said Club has Elec. + Water. Nope he is correct.

It is 11:50 A.M. and we are about  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour from Russell Beacon, which we hear no longer exists since Andrew. But with our Magellan and our Ai-Sea Chart Plotter, we should be on the Money. The Chart pack is terrific.

My knee, incidentally is some improved.

At 12:00 We got Portsmouth, <sup>weather</sup> on the single sideband radio.

At 12:30 the seas are growing. It is too bouncy to make lunch so Mort + I had a half-dozen Bagel Chips + shared a coke. We passed the location of Russell Beacon: no longer exists.

At 1:00 we got a VHF call from a boat called Gunner. He said his GPS was out and he thought he was near Northwest Channel Light. He ~~said~~ said however, he couldn't see it. He asked if we had him on Radar ahead of us, if we had GPS, and if we could tell him how close to the marker he was. (The seas at this time were building, but, thank God, on our bow.)

We told him he was about a mile from the marker, and that he should proceed from where he was on the course he was doing.

The Channel marker was destroyed in Andrew, but we were told there is now a temporary <sup>red</sup> day marker. Hard to see at a distance, in rough water, on a cloudy day. We're keeping in touch with 2 sailboats, Sara Jewel, Aris.

About a half hour later Gunner said he had the ~~marker~~ <sup>marker</sup>, and asked if we could see him. We said "only on our radar". He said he would wait at the marker until we had it in sight. A first class gentleman. We had it in view at 1:30 or 1:40.

At 2:07 we passed the light. You have to pass it within 50 yards from the proper direction since there are reefs below water that are on both sides. (The sea is rough and in one mile we will be at the Tong of the ocean where the water is thousands of fathoms deep. It will certainly be rougher)

The seas after we got into the Ocean were huge. Fortunately, they were all on our nose, which makes for a rocking horse effect, but offers little side to side roll. However, in order to get into the marina we will have to take them on our beam for about 3/10 mile, (while we pass between Momma Koder Rock and the end of the island. Literally between a rock & a hard place.)

At 3:35 we were through the reef and in the channel of Chub Cay Marina. This was out of the rough, and I was able to rig all lines fore & aft, port + starboard, in preparation. Jared took the line as last time.

All was secure at 4:30. Then we showered, had a cocktail and dinner. A beautiful platter of Lettuce, Tomatoes, Green Olives, yellow Pepper and Chicken Salad w/ Vidalia <sup>asleep by</sup> 8:00

May 19, 1993, Wednesday

Club Cay Club

This is a beautiful place even though the effects of Andrew are still apparant. The marina only has ~~one~~ two docks restored to full power. It will take time.

We worked very hard today. We getting everything ship shape after our rock & roll passage, and helping Mort with his jobs. He changed the water filters, changed the filter on the watermaker (after having a scare when it kept shutting down), Washed the boat, started work on fixing the anchor pawl, etc.

I also did a load of laundry which is more work when we're using the 110 pump than ordinarily. In order to keep the water pump from overheating I have to let it pump for the count of 20, let it rest and repeat until the washer is full. This must be repeated during spin rinse and full rinse. Therefore, I am in constant attendance of each load. Ergo, we are trying to cut down on laundry.

I was still vacuuming the floor at 4:30. Mort had just finished putting the waypoints for our next leg in. Then we took showers and had cocktail with the call to Phil Lewis. Jarod had a message for us to call. It was about N.J. Corp. Taxes.

Mort did not let this spoil our evening, which was lovely. With our drinks we had ~~Qufilla~~ fish balls, ~~stover~~

For dinner we had one double lamb chop each and a great salad.

We crashed early. A great Day! The weather was perfect. This would have been a better day <sup>(to come)</sup>.

**Note:** As has happened before, while we bounced around the Fridge - "On Water" button got knocked off. This caused fridge to begin defrosting. We had to pull the fuse in the blue box & replace it to get the compressor to turn over.

Thursday, May 20, 1993

Club Cay \*

Today begins the 6<sup>th</sup> day of our journey & adventure. I'm taking it easier today as I think I overdid these past couple of days. I'm a little shaky, which may be partly due to dehydration. I forgot that we must drink extra fluids in this climate, when expending a lot of energy.

This A.M. I scrubbed the aft head, turned ~~beams~~ turned bins and gave us a fresh pillow case. Must conserve washables. Also did 2nd load of clothes and washed some things by hand. All of the laundry we accumulated since Sunday is now washed. Two loads every 5 days is too much. Have to cut back more.

**Note:** The water maker was running while we washed, discovered we make more water during the course of a full wash & rinse cycle than we use.

We took the afternoon off!

This was after my chores, and after Mort put the wrench back together after Marine Texing the Broken piece, Replaced all of the things we pulled from the parts storage closet (We had gotten sea water in it when we were on the Tongue of the Ocean. It came from the one <sup>low</sup> window Mort has yet to recalk.) and straightened up the engine room.

We sat on the back deck in the good breeze from the S.W. (we would not have been able to leave even if we were ready to go out of the S.E.) Talked to neighbors on other boats (90% of them are sport fish) and bought 4 conch from a Bahamian woman. Fresh from the sea \$1.00 each. I marinated them in fresh lime & lemon juice.