

Sunday, May 29, 1994 Con't

After our swim & fishseeing tour "we washed all of the snorkel gear with fresh water and then washed ourselves with fresh water.

I finished my book while Mort napped.

Dinner was Soy, Tomatoes, Vidalia, Ch. Cheese & Bagels with iced coffee. Yum!

We had a gorgeous sunset. The only disturbance of the evening was the loud mouth Gruboviska sport fishermen. They light their boats like Christmas trees, play rock music at top decibels and shout to each other boat to boat, over the music; until 11:00 or so.

No wonder they have a bad name on the waterways.

Monday, May 30, 1994 Memorial Day - Dry Tortugas.

We had a very good night. No wind and low humidity made for restful sleep.

We're talking about maybe leaving on Tuesday. I'm ready.

Today we may take the boat (Whaler) to Loggerhead Island.

May 30, 1994 Con't.

Just as we were about to leave for Loggerhead Key there developed a huge line of Thunderstorms. As per our Radar 24+ miles long 4 miles wide.

We decided to play Rummy Tiles instead. The rain did not materialize for us, however.

Very nice. About 2:00 Bobbie left and Mort + I took a swim and a nap before cocktails & Desserts. Lamb Chops coated with mustard, seasonings & fine flour, & Browned potatoes/parsley.

Note: Mort + Bob put wholeh up with new system. Went like a dream.

As we were relaxing after dinner it all let the fan. First we noticed that we had no VHF, <sup>Mort changed upper & lower</sup> then the following in order: No Sitey, No Radar, No Depth sounder, the realization that we had no 12 Volt at all. Then Mort charged into the engine room to find that the Battery Charger had ~~overridden~~ gone on. It's overrode its shut out instructions.

The House Battery was all the way down.

We, therefore, had no way to start the Port Engine in the A.M. (We had planned to leave in A.M.)

Note: We are not sure if Charger played some part in drawing it down. This is Mort's feeling. We may need new charger. Frankly, I don't trust this one. It has been a little flacky in other areas recently.

Mort put the genny to rest for the night. After getting our V.H.F.'s ~~totally~~ exchanged - upper for lower - all the charging around + anguish. We were exhausted.

Mort plans to put the New Genny on in A.M. and put charger on (we are able to do so with this one because it has ~~an~~ alternator and is not connected to the 12 Volt charger.

I doubt we will sleep.

Tuesday, May 31, 1994

Dry Tortugas to Key West

Amazingly we did get some sleep, but it was very disturbed. Really a horrible night.

We awoke together at 6:15 when Mort immediately put on Gen #2 and the 12Volt charger. By 7:00 we had the battery up enough for Mort to chance starting engines. They both came on immediately thank God!!!

At 7:30 the anchor was up. Of course this too was not easy. There was a rag caught in the flukes and the outboard wouldn't reset. Eventually Mort got it all squared away.

Mort had a lot of anxiety. More even than I knew. It seems - for some gremlinish reason - that the 32V Alternator worked some of its screws loose and was vibrating sparks from the ground plate. Mort immediately wedged some insulation between the alternator and the groundplate stopping the sparking. His main concern, however, was that the lag bolts would give under the floor and the Alternator belt would fly off doing some damage to other systems in the engine room. It was too bad there, however, for Mort to disengage it under way.

Therefore, we brought our speed down which will make this a longer run.

Mort said he was gripped with the "What will I find when I open the door" syndrome every time he made an engine room check. That is every hour on the hour.

Note \* We had trouble receiving on the VHF. We found that in the exchange Mort had left the wrong antenna on (P.O. on the Radio dial means Low Power)   
↳ This caused Jack & Jumbo also.

Tuesday May 31, Con't

We really, though, had a good run. By 4:00 P.M. we were at anchor.

We had a truly lovely evening. Cocktails and dinner on the aft deck. Smoked / Oysters, Tuna Salad, pickled Beets, carrots (raw), lettuce and Bagel Chips

After our shower (in scalding hot water\*) we caught the breeze and the gorgeous sunset at the same time. (\* The water in the pipes & tanks get heated from the engines)

We secured the Geny. at 8:00 and were asleep by 9:00 P.M.

All in All a great run!

Wednesday, June 1, 1994

Key West to Marathon

After a wonderful, restful night's sleep, we hauled anchor at 8:00 A.M.

The sky is filled with clouds and occasionally threatening.

The trip was good even though we didn't have an alternator. Mort disengaged it at 7:00 A.M. ~~while~~ while the engine room was cooled down somewhat

We arrived at the entrance buoy at 1:30, just after sighting the welcoming committee (sp.?) Two huge dolphins came to play at our bow wave.

June 1, 1994 Con't.

From Boey # 1, almost to the slip, I took video of our progress. I love that camera, and we should have a good visual record of this trip.

By 2:00<sup>P.M.</sup> we were in the slip, and by 2:30<sup>P.M.</sup> we were tied up, and plugged in to power, telephone and T.V. (It is amazing that we never miss TV when we cruise.)

After all was settled in Mort told me he was taking me out to dinner. Great!

We napped, showered, dressed, went to the Quay for a great meal and a couple of drinks, and then came back to flop into bed before 9:00<sup>P.M.</sup>.

We are pooped, but happy. The "shake down" cruise went very well despite our problems, and the Dry Tortugas were well worth seeing. We, however, feel we have "done them." There is no need to go back. And the Bahamas are Better.

We'll be here about two weeks more and then, hopefully, off to a successful trip to and in, the Bahamas.

June 2, 1994 to June 10, 1994

Marathon

Did oodles of things in the engine room. Rebuilt Alternator for 32V, cleaned heat exchangers on both engines. (Will flush every year from now on and will take apart and clean every 3 years.) We changed cell battery to the House Battery on the Dinty Charger. Had Charger fan cleaned. We packed shafts with teflon packing, and drilled new lumber holes in the bilge. We bought lots of stuff we realized we would need. Like more Fats and More Beer. We are almost ready to go.