

May 23, 1994 Con't

Key West

Mort + I then sat on the fantail and watched the sunset. It was gorgeous enhanced by the silhouettes of sailboats out to see the show presented by the setting sun. Shortly ~~after~~^{before} dark we put the anchor light on. Then at "dark time" we showered and fell asleep listening to the gentle lulling sounds of the water caressing the boat as it streamed past in the current.

Spectacular!

Tuesday, May 24, 1994

Key West to Key West *

We then dropped the anchor right there.

I Awoke at 5:00 A.M. Gorgeous here. Mort followed me up by an hour. The engines were on at 7:43, Anchor up at 8:05. Mort had not had a great night. At 8:15 The Coast Guard broke into Channel 16 to report a water spout N.W. of Key West. The sky is very overcast and at 8:20 I saw some "witches tail".

At 8:30 Mort went to make our first engine room check of the day. I heard him open & close the engine room door and seconds later he opened & closed it again. Too short a check! I immediately knew that we had a problem. He flew up the stairs and shut down the Port engine while telling me that we had ^{the} water coming into the engine room. He thought perhaps it was a broken raw water line. It turned out to be just a broken clamp, thank God!

Then when he restarted the engine we heard a Beep and found we had lost our radar.

Tuesday, May 24th Con't.

We decided at this point that it was not the best move to continue. Tomorrow is another day.

Bobbi capitulated and we were re-anchored at Wusteria Island by 9:30 A.M. Quite an exercise, 2 Anchors up - 2 anchors down, & flights of stairs - at a clip. Mort needs a rest.

Note:

- ① We turned the Radar breaker off & on and the Radar re-set. The surge from the engine must have turned an internal breaker off. All OK here.
- ② The old Oman Jerry is running at 152° as of 11:00 A.M.

At 11:15 Mort put the watermaker on for the first time this trip. It worked very well!

We rested until after lunch when we played R.T. (Bobbi won 2 games, I won 1), Did a few odd jobs, Charts, dinner preparation, etc.

Bob left before Cocktails. We then layed on the bow with our drinks. We are very tired. Dinner was Fillet Mignon wrapped in Bacon & Tomatoes and Anchovies w/ Marzetta.

Had a good shower and conked out at 9ish.

Before bed - actually at 6:00 P.M. We listened to Portsmouth Weather. There is a lot to remember about routine when cruising. But we are honing our survival skills which give me the illusion of control.

Full Moon.

Wind under 10 & Variable 15

Wednesday, May 25, 1994

Key West to Dry Tortugas

We awoke early - Me at 5:00 Mort at 6:00.

At 6:55 my captain went below to start the generator. He wanted to run the old one (#1) so as not to have to change oil in #2 Genny until the Bahamas (first change to be at 58 hours).

However, best laid plans and the "Carol" * Syndrome kicked in and the Genny #1 wouldn't start. Ergo, we are running on Gen #2.

Mort took it well!

* Carol Syndrome - Definition: Some one thing must go wrong each day, then all is O.K.

We weighed anchor at 7:00 A.M. and were at #18 at 7:15.

All systems, at 8:30 A.M., seem to be perking along. The Stabilizers are, so far, really doing a job. We have rollers on our port aft quarter and we have only a slight roll. Bobbi is doing much side to side roll as he follows us, and he says we look steady as a rock. Wonderful.

We are now on open ocean with only a few islands in view, at 8:45 we passed Man Key 3 1/2 miles to starboard.

We saw large fish jumping and the water at 9:00 is like a mirror with undulating rollers. Magnificent. The sky is partly cloudy. We could have more sun as far as I'm concerned.

May 25, 1994 Con't.

At 9:00 we saw a pair of dolphins. Most thought they were a mother & calf.

Note: I'm off all anti-inflammatory's. * My knees feel better than they have felt in a year. I have dimples in my knees again. * Except occasional Tylenol.

We had huge schools of Ailuricus (or Alewives) being herded by dolphins. It's breakfast time I suppose.

At 9:15 A.M. we have the Marquesas 4 miles to Starboard. Lovely.

It's amazing. We are in 45 feet of water and we still have traps. It's not even crab or lobster season.

My writing is a little fluky since we are getting a little bumpy. Most + I agree that it would be a really rough ride without the stabilizers

At about 10:30 we saw a huge Sea Turtle

At 11:00 A.M. on the button we were half way.

I'm anxious to be all the way there. We are getting 2 to 3 (I say 2 to 4's) in a short chop. (No water on the bow yet though)

Note: The stabilizers don't take the pitch out. We finally had 2-5 fters. Bobbi had groceries over and ^{we} didn't lose one thing over. Yay stabilizers

We were opposite Pelebea Shoal light at 12:45. Seventeen miles to go. - Two hours I.

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May 25. Cont

We got into the anchorage at 2:50^{P.M.} and were not anchored until 4:00 P.M. The anchorage is very crowded and we were not able to get enough scope out to satisfy Mort.

The beauty of this place, for the moment, is overshadowed by our fatigue from this day and the anxiety of the short scope.

Dinner was chicken salad & tomatoes.

Note: As the full moon rose it was Chinese Red - Spectacular!!!

Thursday, May 26, 1994

Dry Tortugas

At 1:30 A.M. we were awakened by the noises of people anchoring or should I say re-anchoring. Their anchors had slipped. At 5:00 we noticed a wind change and awoke to find our anchor had slipped, and we were 50' from the pilings at the fort.

We quickly ran on deck and went about re-anchoring. Within half an hour we were re-anchored and watchful.

At 7:30 A.M. the boat in front of us took off so we powered up ~~the anchor~~, moved up and re-anchored. The extra distance forward gave us more scope on our anchor, 120 feet of chain.

Mort tried to start Gen. #1 - no go. So he took off the starter solenoid which he suspected was the problem. Bingo, the genny started right up.

Then, while I did laundry, Mort made a ^{plexiglass} plate to cover our anchor chain graph.