

Tuesday, July 14, 1992

70 miles
Ft. Lauderdale to Rodriguez Key

Last night we had a full moon, and a gorgeous sky. When we awoke at 5:00 A.M. it was apparent that it would be a "go" day. All engines started right up.

With the help of Danella & Shirley we pulled out of the slip at 7:20 A.M. We passed the Sea Falcon with no incident and were at the 17th St. bridge at 7:47. Of course, the bridge won't open until 8:00 A.M. We idled at the bridge until the bridge tender opened - exactly at 8:00 A.M. She was a very nice woman, who actually answered when we hailed her.

The Port Everglades exit was terrific today. We are nearly at high tide and the wind is light. It is out of the S.E. 10-15 knots. We have 1-2 footers on the port bow.

Under these conditions there is less anxiety than on the Ft. Lauderdale streets, in the Ft. Lauderdale traffic.

Mort saw flying fish.

It's 10:00 A.M. We are opposite Sal Harbor Inlet. We have done 16 miles ± aboat and only 12[±] on the outside. It has been great so far. We have seen only a few small boats, a small coast guard jet, and the shoeliner. Other than that we are alone.

The autopilot is wonderful. Mort is at the moment taking varnish off of the bow windows.

July 14, 1992 Cont.

At 11:18 A.M. we are just passing the bottom of the Miami Skyline. The smog is so thick that from 2 miles away the buildings are barely visible.

In about an hour \pm we should be opposite Fowey Rocks and in the protection of the reef.

At this point the water is just beginning to clarify.

Florida Keep here we come!

at 12:08 P.M. at Biscayne Channel light. (green & white diamonds)

and
clouds are developing

It's 2:00 P.M. and we $\frac{4}{5}$ ^{two} of the way down Elliott Key, and the clouds have lifted.

It is now 4:37 P.M. and we are 8 \pm miles from our destination. We should please God be anchored by 6:00 P.M. It has been a long, but good day and we will surely be tired.

The anchor was set at 5:52 P.M. It was a good run. Mont & I secured all systems and by 6:30 were enjoying a cocktail on the bow deck. Then we had scrumptious Whitefish, Fox, Veggie (tomatoes, cukes, etc.) and cream cheese and bagels. Mmmmm! After dinner we showered in very hot water. The engine room temperature was 130°, and so was the water temp. Then we sat on the foredeck to cool down until the mosquitoes began to bite. And did they chew

July 14, 1992 Cont.

to pieces. But, not before we enjoyed a gorgeous full moon rise.

We slept in the Salon. It was so hot below. The mesquitos had a field day.

Wednesday, July 15, 1992

52 miles.
Rodriguez to Faro Blanco Ocean
Marathon, FL.

We were ^{awake} ~~up~~ at 5:30 A.M. and our Anchor was up and we were away at 7:35 A.M. It is a gorgeous sunny day, so far, but the wind is brisk - 10-15+ knots and the sea is rough. Two to four footers with large swells abeam. Most say they are only three feet, well that is big enough for me.

At a few minutes before eleven we had two dolphins on our bow wave. I leaned over the bow, Most reminded me to wrap my arm around a stanchion for safety, and didn't even mind the roll while I watched them play. When they heard me call to them, they turned on their side to see me. Super!!! Outside of Boot Key Don Egert heard us on the VHF and sent greetings. After a very wallowey and messy ride, we pulled into Faro Blanco Pleasure at 2:00 P.M. Billy, Stanley & John B. were waiting on the pier to take our lines. Everyone seemed very happy to see us. The marina, surprisingly is almost full. By 2:30 we were all secured.

As per our memories, the breeze was gorgeous out of the South.

We enjoyed a shower, cocktails and Hors D'oeuvres in that order. We were asleep by 8:00. We had not slept much at Rodriguez Key. It is good to be home.

Thursday, July 16, 1992

Fors Blanes -
Boat Key

We slept like babes. No air conditioning - a great breeze - home. We were up at 6:00 A.M. Today we have a lot to do.

We did an amazing amount of "accomplishing" today.

Mort got the phone, T.V. and hoses connected. He got my handle on and the pier carpet screwed on. I did laundry, fixed the ice maker, ordered our private phone, ordered our screens from Keys Canvas (Dean will be by to measure tomorrow), made the bed and this all before Daniell and Shirley arrived with our car at 10:00. We took them to lunch and the bus stop by 12:30 P.M., then we went to the Motor Vehicle Agency to get our Florida ~~state~~ regular drivers license - we turned in our N.J. license, and then we stopped at Keys Video to pick up a copy of "Bugsy".

We got back, made some calls and went to turn on the air conditioner so we could close up & wash the boat down, when we found that the air conditioner pump had eaten it's own impeller, a metal one to boot. When Mort began to take it apart to replace it the pipe came off of the mounting plate, in his hand. It is a miracle that we didn't have a major problem of the pump filling up our bilges. Once again our sweet Miss Shugah too waited until we were safely in port to "show" us her problems.

Tonight we'll eat out. Maybe Anthony's, maybe Cherie's. Ate at Anthony's: Fair - not as good as before Dale left Jeff. Before we left for dinner, Eleanor & Dan stopped over unexpectedly for hugs & kisses. They look great.

Friday, July 17, 1992

Faro Blanco Beachside

Busy day getting ship shape. Mort finished air conditioner pump; Grinding work. I did more of my chores. We're feeling tired from the trip, excitement, etc.

Everyone who hears we are back walks, pedals, or rides down the pier to say hello & welcome.

Genny & Joe, John Sullivan, Sally's girls, CC & Julie, (Of course) Stanley & Betty are here every hour or so. Stanley can't wipe the smile off his face, and has said 5 or 6 times that he really missed us. Ula, from Housekeeping almost smothered Mort with her hug.

Tonight we had munchies for dinner, Smoked Oysters, Camar & Pita Chips, etc. We were too tired to cook & eat a regular meal.

It is great to be back!!!

Saturday, July 18, 1992

Marathon, Fl.

Another good day.

Another work day for Mort, odds & ends. I went into town to shop for some needs, and to say some Hellos. Sue & Mark from Jugboats looked wonderful and were very excited to see me. They left customers to smooch & squeeze me.

After work & showers we went to dinner at the Quay. Different owner, but still the same wonderful food. Pat, a waitress we had before, not only remembered us, but remembered that I always order the Frog Legs. Amazing. After dinner we went to the Peard bar to enjoy David's student of his on her first public appearance. She was charming and I got her autograph.