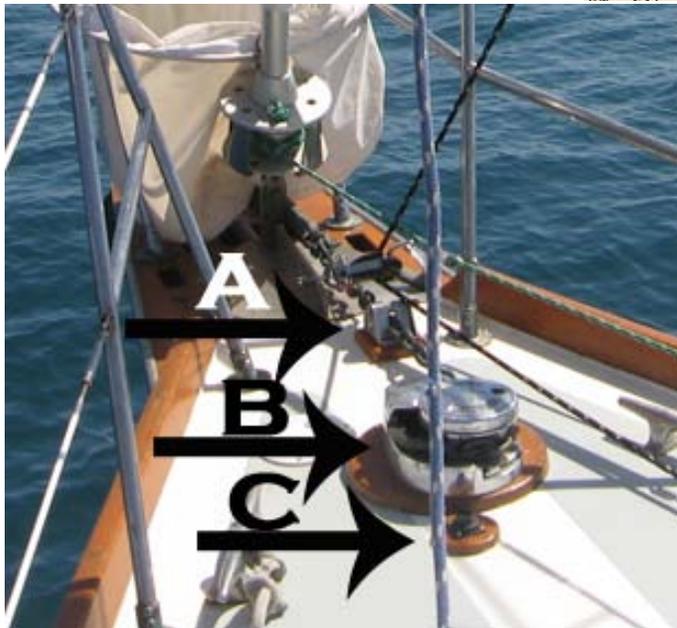
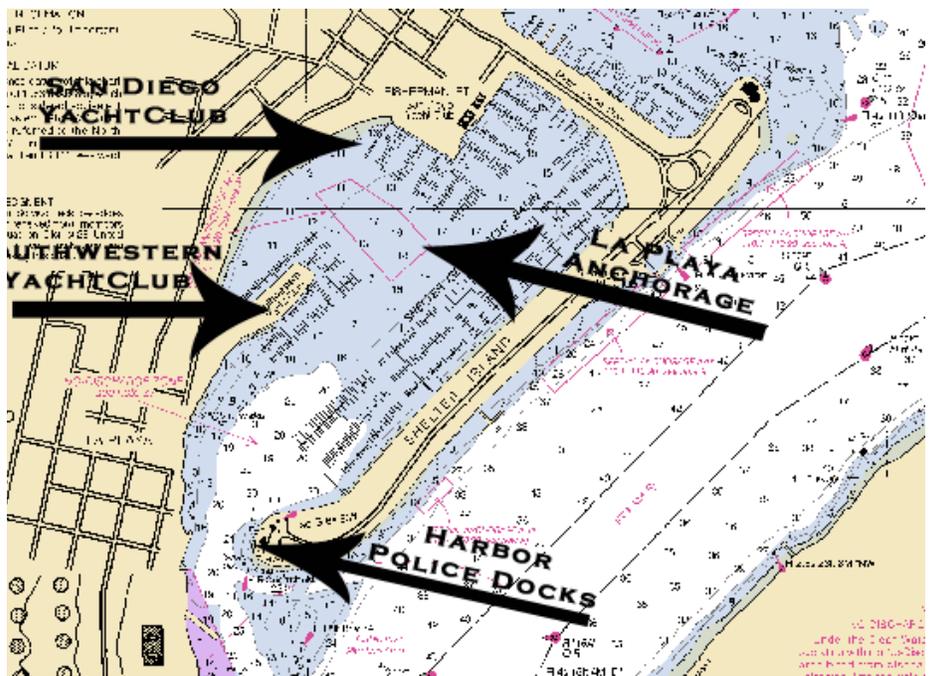


October 10, 2010

Dear Pops and Mom,

San Diego has to be about one of the most beautiful places to hang out. Unfortunately it is one of the most expensive to moor a boat. So my mission for September and October was to do whatever I could to not pay marina fees. There are a lot of ways to do that and one is to stay at the Harbor Police Docks. It's very inexpensive but you can only stay for 10 days out of every 40 days. I had already used 5 since we arrived so I moved to an anchorage called La Playa. It is a great spot inside between San Diego Yacht Club and Southwestern Yacht



A: is the chain stopper

B: is the windlass

C: where the electric control plugs in

Club. I am getting pretty good an anchoring by myself. The control for the electric anchor windlass is up at the bow so I get the boat set with the front pointing into the wind, put it in reverse a little bit and run up and lower the anchor. The boat needs to moving a little backwards to drag the anchor and chain back as they fall to be sure they don't foul and to be sure the anchor digs into the bottom. Sometimes this requires stopping the lowering and walking back to give the engine a little more reverse before lowering the anchor the rest of the way. They say to put out about 7:1 chain to water depth. It is about 15 feet deep in La Playa so I let out about 100 feet of chain. Once the chain is all out I lock it off with the chain stopper and go back and put the boat in reverse with a pretty high RPM to make sure the anchor will not pull out if the wind picks up. When I leave and pull the anchor up it is usually covered with mud or some other gross stuff so I have a hose at the bow to rinse the chain as it comes up and goes down into the the boat.

You are only allowed to anchor at La Playa over the weekend so on Monday morning I moved to the A-9 Anchorage. I had heard that the anchorage was prone to theft so I was a little nervous about it but when I asked the officer at the Harbor Police station they said that they had not had any reported theft over there. So I got the boat settled in at a spot about as close to the Coast Guard base as I could get. It seemed like a very safe place to be but at night they run helicopter training and it is

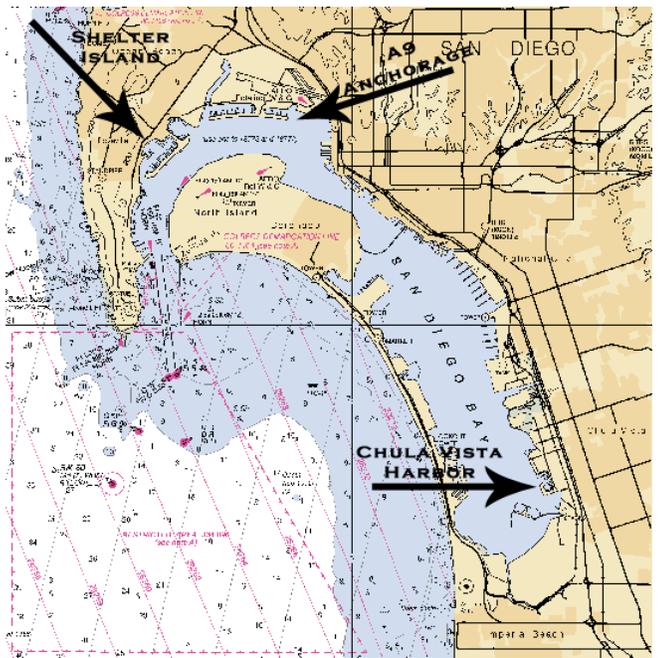


The A-9 Anchorage has a great view of downtown San Diego and is right next to the Coast Guard base. Too bad it's so noisy!

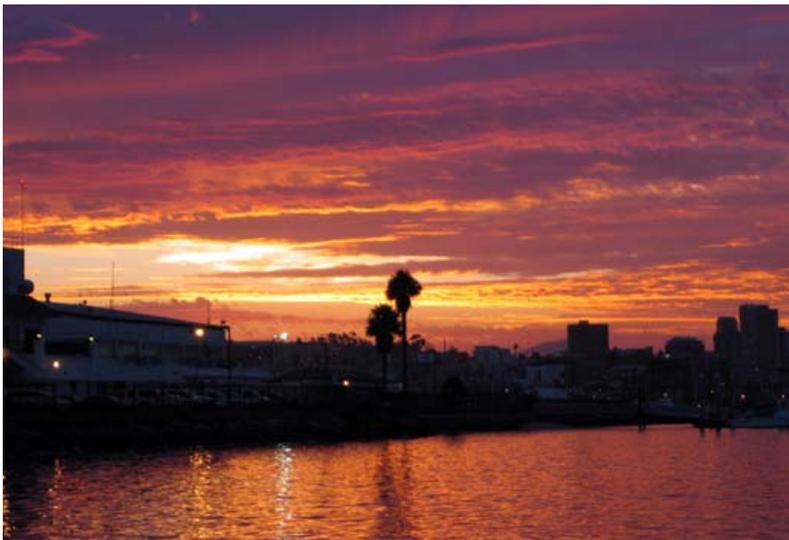
very noisy. Then early in the morning they start marching and playing some loud military music and it wakes me up again! But what a handy place to be to run errands downtown. I just put my folding bicycle into the dinghy, motor to the dock, take the bike out, unfold it, and off I go.

More projects for September and October included emptying out all the cupboards and lockers to get the salt off. I need to rinse everything in fresh water, wipe out the lockers, dry it, and put it all back. I cannot wait until all of the leaks are stopped and this huge task is no longer necessary. The boat has a forced air diesel fired furnace so to dry everything I just fired it up. It is awfully humid in San Diego. I am not sure it would have ever gotten dry without the heater.

For the Baja Ha Ha I will have 2 couples aboard. One couple will sleep up forward in a large cabin but the other couple has to sleep in the very small side cabin which is usually only for one person. I made a piece of wood to fit between the wall and the bunk and bought a piece of foam just the right size so now that berth is queen size at the top and narrow at the feet. They will just have to make it work.



I changed the oil and boy is that ever a zippy task now that Colin has me all lined up with the right tools. I have a pump that is driven by the drill. A hose sticks in one side of the pump and goes into the dipstick. A hose sticks in the other side of the pump and goes into a fuel jug I usually use for spare diesel. After the oil change I just go to a gas station or a marina and dump the jug. Colin says the little bit of used oil residue left in the jug won't hurt the fuel. Some things are just so simple. I used to have to coerce someone into changing my oil or pay someone. Now I am oil change independent! And Colin can rest assured I will be more apt to change it every 100 hours as he has requested.



Beautiful sunset from the boat while at the A-9 Anchorage

Some things on the boat I acquired for free through Schooner Creek. My favorite is the watermaker. One day I was sitting at my desk and the electrician ran in and said there was a perfectly good watermaker being thrown in the dumpster. Yikes! I ran out and got them to put it in the van. We had it in a storage unit until after Dale died so before I left for Mexico I got it out and cleaned it up. It came from an 80' power boat that had an engine room fire and the only problem with it was some smoke damage and a melted hose. No one in Oregon knows much about installing water-



These little boats are headed out from the San Diego Yacht Club for a race. They are so light and fast they don't carry motors. The power boat is towing out to where they will race.

makers so the boys at Schooner Creek did their best and when I got down to La Paz I had a watermaker expert make some changes. He was impressed with it's capacity and added pre filters and some more plumbing. The watermaker is much bigger than most boats Talions size would have. The only drawback is that it is a little heavy and uses quite a bit of power. The only way it will work is with the generator so for almost a year the thing has just been sitting. I fired it up. It's kinda scary because when it pumps the salt water from outside the boat it runs it through three pre-filters and then a very high pressure pump



One morning at the La Playa anchorage these little one-person boats were racing around me.



The watermaker controls

hours it was running and making about 10 gallons per hour. It has enough power to make 40 gallons per hour but would need more membranes. Something that can be added at a later date. I have a lot more important things to get up and running. I am very happy it runs though because it will make the trip with 5 people on the boat for 2 weeks much more tolerable if everyone can take showers! Other prep for the trip south includes getting the ham radio functioning. Sometimes on the boat you get so far away

forces it through a long skinny membrane that filters out all the salt water. It is loud and sounds like it is about to blow! Anyway it did kinda blow. Water all over the floor. So I took apart the cabinet it resides behind and discovered a leaking brass fitting. Unfortunately to replace that fitting I had to remove a gauge, some sensor thing and about 10 other brass fittings. But I got it out and jumped in the dingy with the bike and peddled over to the Ace Hardware. They had the fitting and in a couple



Talion anchored nice and close to the San Diego Yacht Club.

from land and cell phones the only communication is through a ham or single sideband radio. So the boat is equipped with a ham and I have a ham operators license. On the Baja Ha Ha there is a morning net on the ham radio with announcements, weather updates, and a check-in for all the boats to give their position report. The radio has worked off and on over the past few years. I sent it in for repairs once and was told it was fine. Then it stopped working again. So Marv (he is really good on ham radio stuff) spent



Another beautiful sunset. This time from La Playa.

room, threw all the stuff off the bunk, pulled up the cushion, and flipped off and on the battery switch to stop the starter. I motored slowly for 10 minutes or so and went back down to check on things. The smoke had stopped so I motored to the A-9 Anchorage and spent 2 hours pulling out the stater. Not an easy task as the thing probably weighs over 40 pounds and has a couple of very hard to reach bolts. But I finally got it out, stuffed it in a bag, threw it in the dingy with the bike and headed for the dingy dock. I had found a starter repair place that would work on it the next morning so I needed to get it to him before 5. I peddled and peddled. It was a lot farther than I thought and the heavy starter on the back of the bike made it even harder. It turned out to be over 6 miles but I got it there in time and even peddled home before dark. The next day he was done by two so I raced back, picked it up, put it in that evening and the boat was good as new the next morning. WHEW!

Some harbor traffic between the anchorages is really big. You gotta keep an eye out!

some time with it on our trip up the coast and decided it was receiving but not transmitting. I had the local dealer come to the boat and look at it. He hooked the radio up to a tester and determined that... it doesn't transmit. So I sent it in for repairs.

One Monday morning I was leaving the La Playa anchorage, everything was going well, I got as far as the Harbor Police Docks, and I smelled smoke. I put it on autopilot and went below and yep it was a burning electrical smell coming from the inside of the boat. I went out to check our course, went below, took off the steps, opened the engine room door, and saw smoke everywhere. It was coming from the starter. I went in the next



YAY A shiny new rebuilt starter and solenoid!



The boat owner drove, Pat did the foredeck, and I trimmed the sails from the cockpit.

designed as race boats but it was still very fun. We raced from a buoy at the entrance to Shelter Island, past the A-9 anchorage, past downtown, around a buoy just before the Coronado Bridge and then back again. At the start of the race we were not in first place but we slowly caught up with the other boats and passed them. We got first place! At the awards Sunday night the boat owner's wife and Pat's wife Carol joined us. We sat at a table with the designer of Catalina Yachts and his assistant. It was very fun and a great break from my usual tasks. Oh I forgot to tell you the best part! Pat and Carol are planning to drive down to La Paz for the month of January and wondered if I knew of any houses they could rent. I

One day I was anchored in La Playa shining up the stainless steel when a boat pulled up and yelled my name. It was my friend Pat Macintosh from La Paz. He and his wife Carol had their 45 foot sailboat tied up right next to me in La Paz a couple years ago. Since then they moved back to the states and sold their boat (with the help of a website I set up for them). Pat and his friend were about to go out racing for the day in the Catalina Regional Championships and they were short one crew member. Would I like to join them? In 10 minutes I was changed, cleaned up, packed a jacket, a bottle of water, my sailing gloves, and was on the boat. It was a very casual group of racers on little boats ranging from 23 feet to 30 feet that are not really



Catalina 25's are little cruising boats that don't carry spinnakers.



The winners, the trophy, and the designer of the boat. Pat and Carol are the two on the far right. The designer is third from the left... I forgot the other people's names.

told them they could house sit Talion on its mooring buoy. They offered to pay the marina fee if I left it in the marina. Perfect! Now I can do Christmas in Colorado and hang out in Denver until the end of January when I am doing a show for Leslie. And they are both very trustworthy and boat savvy people!



My bike and my dingy.

I love my bike. It was my dad's folding bike he used when he took his 68' power boat from Anchorage Alaska down to Acapulco and back in the early 1970's. I think the bike is probably 40 years old. I used to be envious of other people with their shiny new lightweight folding bikes but I have now decided mine is a classic. The seat is very uncomfortable, it's a three speed but only two speeds work, it is small so I look like a clown on a little circus bike, but I love it. It is such good exercise and in San Diego there are trails and paths to ride on everywhere. People even get out of your way when you ride on the sidewalk. In Portland it is illegal to ride on the sidewalk which is very scary down town!



I could do without some of the things you see while riding a bike.

You see things on a bike you don't normally see when you zip past in the car and you smell smells you would miss. Besides... great exercise! I wish La Paz had bike paths but sadly riding a bike in Mexico is dangerous.

With all of my money saving, boat moving, bike riding, and penny pinching I felt I earned my trip to Colorado so I booked a flight using miles I had earned while working for Leslie. Flights using miles are easy to book in and out of San Diego. La Paz doesn't work so well so I have not had the opportunity to use them. It only cost me \$10 for the flight and I found a place to leave the boat for \$28 per night. Not too bad. So I am writing you from Denise's where I have been busy with baby-sitting tasks. My niece Lisa lives about 3 blocks from Denise and has 2 boys aged 5 and 8. It is very fun for Andrea to have cousins so close but these boys are a real handful. More about that next month along with a report on the Baja Ha Ha. It was great seeing you two and I sure hope you are feeling better Pops!

Love,
Patsy



I took this picture to show you the really steep hill I rode up and back down... but it doesn't look so steep in the picture.