

Dear Pops and Mom, March 8, 2012
While Colorado is a nice place to visit it is so cold and at such elevation it was nice to finally get home. The flight is always difficult and this one was especially tiring. I used up my saved airline miles for a free flight which means I had to take what I could get with the early departure, long layovers, lots of plane changes, and a long wait for the bus from Cabo San Lucas to La Paz. I am not sure why but I have always been very uncomfortable sitting at a bar or going to a restaurant by myself. In the Cabo San Lucas airport I made an exception. Only a glass of red wine could improve my mood after that trip.

Ah... home again!

After the bus ride my friends Shelly and Jody picked me up at the bus station and gave me a ride in their dingy out to the boat. All was just as I left it. Whew!



Back to beautiful sunsets every evening. It was still a little chilly at night though. I had to turn on the heater a few times!



View of the marina from my mooring.

Time to start in on my projects. Alison's husband got a job in China so she is moving across the world in April. She needed a boat and Baja fix before moving away so she asked if she could come for a visit. I warned her that this is my time for working on projects. With her arriving soon I needed to prioritize so that things such as interior varnish were done before I had a guest. First was to change the engine oil. Always a big task as the oil



The sewing project are the easy and fun ones. The caulking, engine work, and varnish are much more challenging.



The carpet looks a lot better and will protect the floor.

needs to be sucked out of the dip stick tube because you cannot get under the engine to drain it out. Yucky black messy oil everywhere. After the oil change I got into the varnish work. The interior of the forward head needed a couple coats as did the

forward cabin, the cabin doors, all the drawers and doors in the galley, and the dining table. It is too much of an undertaking to do the entire boat interior so I am getting to the areas that really need it first and working my way around the boat. I got a satellite radio receiver for Christmas. It is my new favorite toy. It is frustrating in Mexico because the radio and TV are in Spanish and I cannot understand it. So I installed that next. Unfortunately it did not work so I had to call a repairman. He finally determined it was the unit and I needed to exchange for a new one. On to the VHF radio which had not been receiving very well. That repairman said it was the radio and he sent it off to be repaired. I needed to get these things out as shipping from Baja to the USA takes a little extra time.

The sanding and varnishing in the interior were very messy. I put drop cloths over everything but



Lists and sticky notes everywhere. The older I get them more I seem to need them.



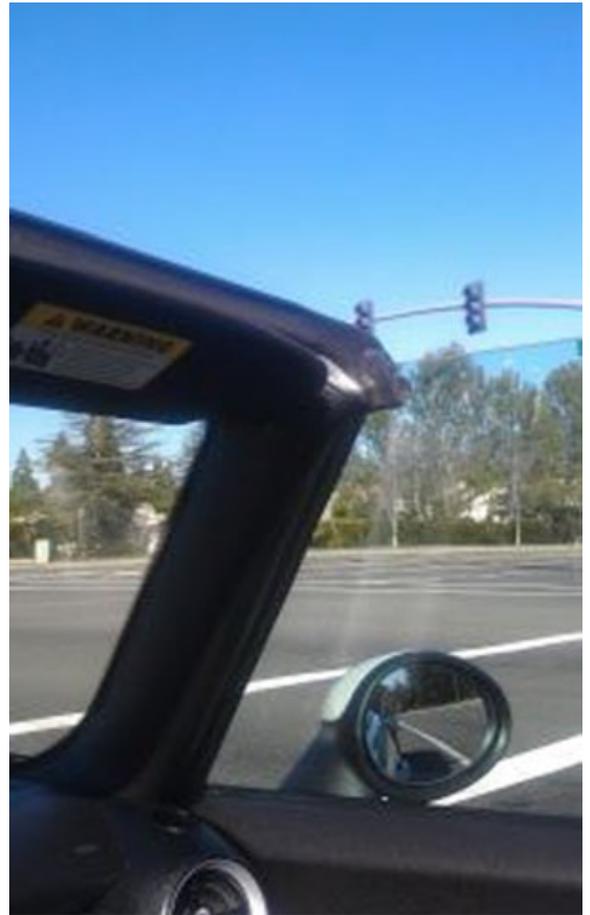
Yep... these two are definitely happy California girls!

with my other issues in the past few years and is looking shabby. So for now I bought a big giraffe patterned rug and cut it to fit. I even sewed a fabric edge around the outside and installed snaps to snap to the floor so it doesn't move. It looks great... in fact so great I made carpets for both heads (bathrooms). That was a big upgrade!

With the messy stuff done I was ready for my guest. I like it when Alison comes to visit as her main objective is to lay in the sun and read. Out of my hair so I can continue to get things done!

Andrea's favorite part of moving is making houses out of the empty moving boxes. This one came complete with inside lighting.

it seems like I will never get rid of all of the dust. Another area I was going to fix was the floor in the forward cabin. The wood floor had some delaminated places when I first got the boat and really needed to be replaced with new. It has not become a top priority



When Denise and Andrea drove from Colorado to California the first thing they did when they hit the California border was put the top down!



It wasn't all work when she was here. We did manage to get out to the islands for a few days of sailing. It was good to shake out the cobwebs and make sure everything is still in working order.

After the islands it was time for the Carnival. It is quite the celebration in La Paz. People come from all over the Baja Peninsula and from mainland Mexico to celebrate.



They close the main street along the waterfront and set up booths with trinkets for sale, carnival games, food, and rides. There are four bandstands along the road with very loud music blaring from each. It seems like every year it gets more and more crowded. We could barely make our way through the crowds to the end. It must have been at least 2 miles of booths along the boardwalk.





The Carnival also includes a parade. But not just one. The parade is repeated on three different afternoons... I suppose so that everyone has a chance to see it. While not up to Rose Parade standards the parade has plenty of floats, marching bands and traditional dancers. A very fun event.

The booths are all very colorful.

Pushing our way through the crowds, trying to communicate over the loud music, and smelling the churros, tacos, and cotton candy had these two ready for a break so we ducked



into what turned out to be a fabulous restaurant complete with live piano music and white tablecloths.

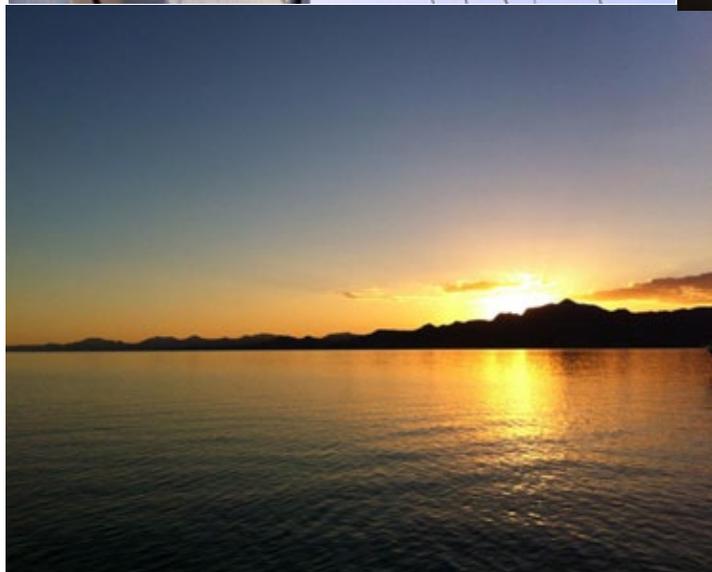
We found the best way to see The Carnival is out the window of a nice restaurant!



After Alison left I entered a sailing race from La Paz out to the islands and back to La Paz the next day. I like to sail by myself and the safest way to accomplish that is with other boats close by and going to the same place. The first day of the race was fun at the beginning but then the wind died and we had to call off the race and motor to the anchorage.



Alison and I did find a couple good places to eat while she was here. Look at the size of that burger!



I like to sail alone but I don't like to eat alone so I invited the fleet over for a pot luck dinner on *Talion*. About 15 people showed up for a great time.

The next morning had more wind and I had trouble getting all the lines and sails sorted out so I was late for the start. The wind was on the nose (coming from the front of the boat) so I had to tack the big headsail from one side of the boat to the other all the way home. It was a lot of



It's so cold in La Paz I had to sail in my wool sox.

work and I was exhausted. But I did manage to meet my goal and finish the race.

After that it was back to my tasks. The most important was to get on Colin to get that generator running. I was happy to hear that it is not just me as he cannot figure out why it is not getting fuel either. To top it off the power generating part of the motor blew its bearing (for the second time) so he had to replace it. He is now repairing the generator for free as he says I could have bought a new one for the amount he should charge.

Meanwhile, I varnished the exterior, buffed, waxed, sewed a canvas cover for the entry door, recovered the cockpit cushions, got the radios back and working,





My kitchen counter has looked this way most of the month.



shined stainless, caulked a few more areas, sorted through stuff and donated a lot, patched a hole in the dingy, scrubbed, washed, sewed new sheets for the forward cabin (they are made from king size sheets and sewn into a triangle shape), got Jose to clean the bottom, patched a sail, repaired some tattered canvas, and repaired the canvas fender covers.

And my view all month has been of Colin in the engine compartment.



I had a busy month but the boat looks great and just in time for Marv, Ardy, Bill, and Judy to arrive for our trip across the Sea of Cortez and ultimately to the Banderas Bay Regatta. Hope you are doing well!

Love, *Patsy*