

Dear Pops & Mom,
 Hope all is well. I am doing just great. It was great to talk to you on the phone on Mother's Day. You both sound very well. Thanks for the invite to your anniversary weekend. It is on my calendar and I will try to get down there. I will be in the Pacific Northwest over Labor Day as my sister and her family bought a boat in Canada and need my help to get it down the Washington coast. As an added benefit Morgan will be visiting from Germany so I want to be sure to see her.



I had a very busy month with repairs, guests, events and parties. Friends from Portland Cheryl and Mike McNaughton came down to take the boat up to the Loreto Fest with me and then do the Sea of Cortez Sailing Week on the way back down. There were here for 2 weeks and we had a great time. I had shipped the ball bearings for the mast to them so the day after they arrived Craig came over and we put the mast back together. It took quite a bit of work as Craig is quite the perfectionist but it is done right and works great. The next day Craig and Jennifer on Adios, Bill on Moontide and Talion headed up to

While traveling I don't drink any alcohol (except maybe a little sunset wine on long trips) so once anchored I can't wait to blow up my chair and float with a gin & tonic!

Puerto Escondido and the Loreto Fest. We stopped in a couple beautiful bays along the way, swam in the warm water, and had pot lucks every night. The first day the wind blew very hard so we got to sail most of the day. The rest of the time was no wind and motoring. Which was fine with me . I just needed to get away from the marinas, people, and repairing things. It is so peaceful and beautiful. We saw the usual fantastic sea life every day and anchored in spectacular places. Actually went to some new ones this time. Since



My other favorite seat.



Nice and close to the festivities.

Loreto Fest is a gathering of gringos from all over the Sea of Cortez and ones that live in Loreto and Puerto Escondido for a final goodbye to the cruising season. Some boats will go up to Guymas and leave their boat for the summer while they travel home to the states, some go up north into the sea to escape the heat, and some go back to La Paz and then around and up to San Diego. A final goodbye.

There are events that make it so much more fun like some very strange baseball game with a whiffle bat, bocci ball, horseshoes, card games, dominoes, dinghy races and more. We played the baseball game which we immediately lost but had a good time. Marv and Ardy are excellent bocci ball players and got into the finals. We had quite the group watching their games. It was so hot in the day sitting and watching was about all we could do. Every day there was some sort of dinner, chili cook off, spaghetti feed or pot luck thing and music

every night. I spent most of one day helping out Mike and Shelly from La Paz Yachts. There were two boats in Puerto Escondido they had for sale and needed photos of. So I climbed around inside a 30' sailboat that was on a trailer in the boat yard. And then a 35' power boat in the bay. I took many of photos of both boats inside and out and then went back and cropped, tweaked and adjusted the images before emailing them. I am not getting paid but Mike and Shelly are such

there were only 6 of us and 3 boats we just pot lucked every dinner. A relaxing easy trip up the Baja. In Puerto Escondido I anchored right off the sea wall close to the Loreto Fest gathering. With the three of us and my tiny dingy it just makes it easier to have a short trip. The bay is filled with mooring buoys that are for rent and it is where I left Talion last year but the available ones are across to the other side of the bay. So we anchored nice and close and immediately put up the big shade awning. There was no wind and it was very hot.



Crazy ball game called over the line.



Old friends, new friends, music, drink and food... perfect!

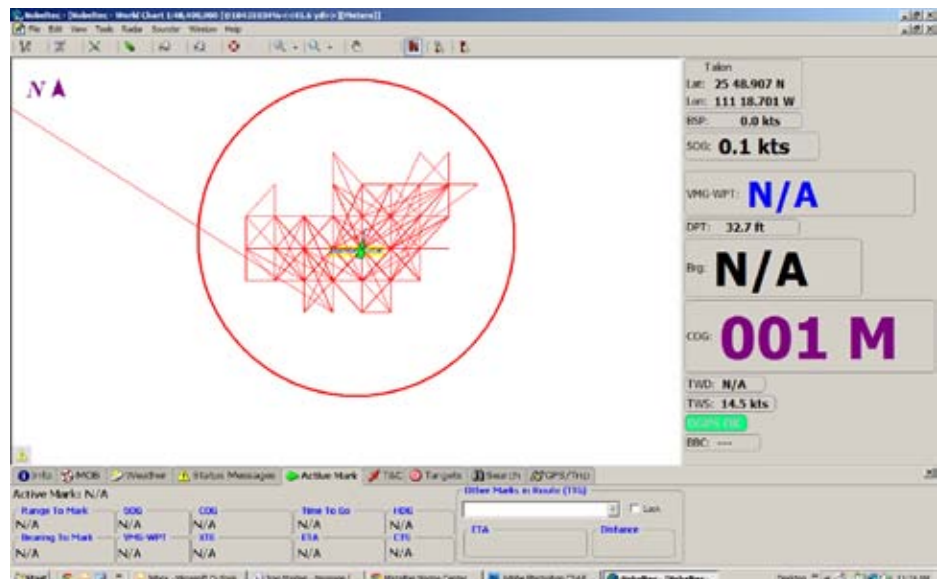
good friends and a great help to me I was delighted to repay what I could. Strong winds were predicted for the next two days, Sunday and Monday. I was hoping it was not true as the Sea of Cortez Sailing Week was set to start on Monday. Well... true it was and on Sunday morning the wind started to build until it reached 25-30 knots. This was a bit scary as we are not on a mooring buoy and if the anchor were to drag we would drag right into the seawall. So when Bill



The waves were much worse than this picture looks.

and found the bottom to be grassy mud which is not great for the plow unless it has been there for a few days and worked its way in (which ours has). The danforth loves that grassy mud and dug in right away. I knew Talion was not going to move. So I stayed ashore and talked, watched games, and listened to peoples suggestions and smiled. Mike and Cheryl had ridden in earlier that afternoon in a water taxi so their trip to and from was easy. For me the ride out was pretty good but getting back to the boat was not an easy. I had to drive into the big waves carefully so I did not swamp the dingy. 3 dinghies flipped over backwards from the wind and waves and I was not going to be the fourth. Once at the boat the waves bounced so much it was hard to get the three davit lines attached. The davits are the safest place so it had to be done. The stern of the boat goes up and the dingy goes down about 5 feet at

The 100' boundary I set is the red circle. Talion's track throughout the night moved but stayed inside.



Uh Oh - getting windy
 stopped by that morning I asked for a little help setting a second anchor. Within 20 minutes we had a big 45 lb. danforth anchor out off the starboard bow which is the perfect anchor for the grassy muddy bottom. Coupled with the 45 lb. plow anchor and 200' of chain on the port bow we were secure. I went ashore and people were standing at the wall warning me that I could drag, the area was not good holding, etc. I had anchored here the prior two years

times. I need to attach one davit line at the front and two at the back then climb aboard without banging the engine on the hull or falling in the water. It's hard but not impossible and I somehow managed to do it without incident. That night it continued to blow. I tied slapping halyards to quiet them and checked the anchor lines for chafe. I set my computer to sound an alarm if we went outside a 100' circle. It



From the left Jennifer, Craig, Patsy, Mike & Cheryl

worked like a charm. The next day the sailing week group decided to postpone for a day until the wind was not quite so strong. I was telling a friend about my photos for Mike and Shelly and he asked me to take some of his boat. For that he would buy my dinner at the "Loreto Fest after the event dinner" in Loreto. So in the nasty wind I took the dinghy over and spent a couple hours staging and taking photos of his boat. I am going to put them together into a little web page for him. He has cruised in Baja on his boat for 35



Pot Luck on Talion!

years and knows everything and everyone. He gave Mike, Cheryl and I a ride to the restaurant along with a little tour of Loreto and back again. It was a great evening and nice to have a guide. The next day we started south with our little group of 10 boats. Usually Richard of the magazine Latitude 38 and I put on the week of sailing but this year he had other commitments. My first inclination was to cancel but Bill and Craig both encouraged me

The hike on Isla San Francisco is always popular.





Some great underwater shots of those sea lions.

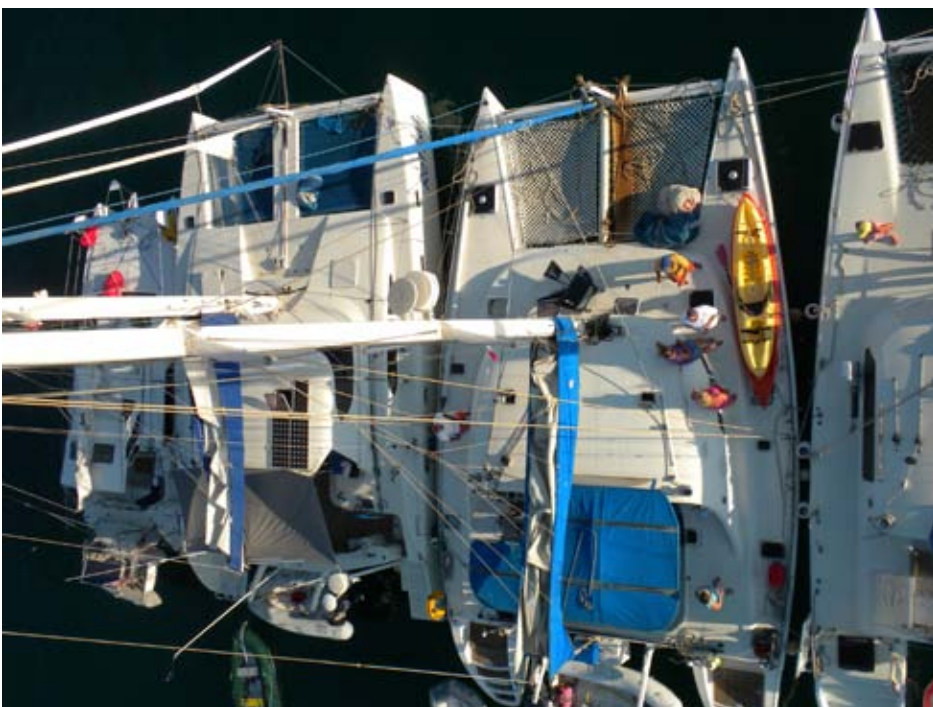
to put it together. I put Bill in charge of the morning radio net and we both designed a route to La Paz with interesting and fun stops. The first day had plenty of wind which was great because with our spinnaker choices we need a lot of wind. We sailed the whole day with the big 1.5 oz. up and had no problems with just the three of us. Our first stop was a bay called Los



Gatos which is strikingly beautiful with Utah colored red rocks around. There was one boat in our group called Rotkat. It is owned by a friend, Arjan Bok and his wife. Arjan is 100% Dutch and was born in Holland. A very fun guy and due to my last name we became friends a few years ago. He sailed on Talion on a race in La Paz last spring and noted our need to

replace that 3/4 oz. spinnaker we had blown up, repaired, and blown up again. I don't remember but apparently Arjan told me he had a big .9 oz. spinnaker (the fraction (3/4, 1.5, or .9) is the weight or thickness of the ripstop nylon fabric) that he couldn't use anymore. Bill used it the first day and brought it over to us when we got to Los Gatos. Oh Boy! I love new (or new to me) sails! That night Arjan invited the entire fleet over to his catamaran for a cocktail/hors d'oeuvres party. We are such a small group we easily fit on his boat. The next day we sailed to my favorite island Isla San Francisco. That night we invited everyone to Talion for pot luck dinner. The next morning I led everyone on my standard Isla San Francisco hike. Up the hill, along the edge trail, through the cactus garden, across to the other side of the islands agate beach and then to the salt pond in the middle. I love that place. The original plan was to stay there 2 nights but after skipping a day due to heavy wind we had to leave. That

afternoon there was very little wind so we split up. Some went to Los Islotes and swam with the sea lions. Mike and Cheryl opted to join that group and they spent about a half an hour swimming around and watching the sea life. We caught a bit of wind that afternoon so we were able to get the new blue Dutch sail up. It is old and a little stretched out but I think it will be perfect for the Baja Ha Ha this fall. That night we stopped in San Gabriel. That is the bay I explored with Celeste and her son Eli last month. One reason I wanted to go there is the perfect volleyball beach.



Interesting view of the four catamarans rafted up.



*Denise got me the chair for Christmas. It is no a kayak
I had a hard time keeping it from going in circles!*

Everyone eventually made it in from their various side trips and the catamarans decided to have a 4 boat raft up. 4 Boats was a perfect place for a pot luck so we all joined them with another fabulous spread of dishes. The next day we spent all day in that bay playing volleyball, bocci ball, snorkeling, checking out the frigate bird nests, remains of the ancient the pearl factory. The volleyball was the hit though. Everyone got a chance to play in the warm 6-12 inches of water and

beautiful white sandy bottom. After a day in the sun everyone went back to their boats and cooked up a storm for our final pot luck... this time on the beach. We stayed until the bugs were unbearable. The next morning everyone seemed to have a different time schedule. We left the anchorage at staggered times and gathered that night at a La Paz restaurant for dinner and a fun awards ceremony where everyone got a little plaque and a T-shirt. Another great Sea of Cortez Sailing Week put to bed.



Now it's time to get the boat ready for the boat yard. I had the discount coupon from Bay Fest, I had the bottom paint and I was ready. Marv helped me move the boat over to the yard. I was so nervous and practically no one spoke Spanish so when the owner of the boat yard came by I handed him my diagram of where the prop, rudder and keel are for strap positioning and held my hand to my heart and said "Me Casa" (my house). He smiled and took over. He shouted orders as the boys got the straps into the correct position and raised the boat. The first thing they do is pressure wash off any growth on the bottom, wet sand it by hand, and then rinse. Then they move the boat into the yard and block it up on stands.



*The frigate bird aviary on the shore was full
of babies and birds flying everywhere*

The hull sides looked pretty bad out of the water so I asked how much to buff and wax. \$800. YIKES! There was one thing that had to be done though and that was repairing a leaking depth sounder thru hull. The leak was discovered a year and a half ago in Ensenada when I first had engine problems. A diver patched it with underwater epoxy which stopped the leak temporarily but it needs a permanent fix. After seeing it out of the water it was obvious that the whole mounting of the thing was bad so I decided to take it out and check with the yard about a price to fiberglass over the hole. Also the water line on the boat had chipped blue paint above the black bottom paint. Barnacles grow at the water line with an



overloaded cruising boat they grow above the bottom paint. When the diver scrapes them it chips the blue line. So I got a price from them to glass in the hole, raise the water line, and just buff the last 10' of the boat (which is the part I can't reach from the water). They said \$100. Perfect! As they worked I stood back and looked. Last fall while I was docked a huge boat came by and made such a wake a fender popped and the vinyl graphics and name got scraped off the side badly in some places. I tried to repair it but it still looked really bad. Shelly told me of a place right up the street. \$100 installed! Yay another great deal and all I had to do was remove the old one. It took most of a day with a razor blade and various solvents but I did manage to get it off. The only other task was to really check out the prop and do another adjustment to try to get the speed up. The boat yard did an excellent job of cleaning up the prop (included in the bottom job price) so Craig came over and helped me grease it and adjust the pitch. We played with it for a while and the boat was ready to go back in. In the morning they moved Talion back over to the water and then painted the spots where the boat stands had been and under the keel. Then they waited a couple hours for the paint to dry so I climbed back aboard to get some stuff done. A





Not the best view of Talion. On the lower right is the chipped off blue paint. Raising the water line solved the problem and looks great.

couple hours later the boat started moving with me in it. They launched Talion with me aboard! You can't do that in the US! I stayed at their dock for a couple hours cleaning the deck, filling the water tank and basically taking advantage of their hose. I wasn't able to use any drains while the boat was in the yard so I had quite a few dirty dishes and basically a mess to clean up. Finally that afternoon I got to go to the mooring buoy... Talion's new home!



Bill had been on the mooring with Moontide while I was in the yard and said that the buoy had a leak and was full of water so he tied one of his fenders on. The buoy had red paint on it and it looked like it had been hit and cut by a propeller. One afternoon a few days later I was down below talking on the phone and heard someone on the boat. I quickly got off the phone and saw hairy legs and feet through my window. I looked out and it was a guy that lives on his boat in the bay. He said something like "where are you going" and I looked out. Talion had drifted way down the bay and I hadn't even noticed! We were in very shallow water so I started the engine. The mooring line was still attached to the boat but it looked like it had been cut at about 6' down. I motored back



The worst part of the boat yard is climbing up and down the dreaded ladder. At Schooner Creek when the boat was in the yard I could use the scissor lift to get up and down. Like having an elevator. This was scary!

to my spot and put down the anchor. The biggest problem now was the rest of the moorings line was under water and with no buoy on it. The next day I got out one of your fishing poles and put on a big treble hook and weight. I cast and cast all over the area. A guy came by in a dingy and asked what the heck I was doing. He looked around and said he could see it about 6' under the water! So I got in the dinghy and fished over in that spot and managed to snag it. I put a buoy on it and called Craig. He came over and tied a big loop in the end and seized it with line to be sure it will stay. So I guess while we were up in Puerto Escondido a boat hit the buoy, popped it, and cut the line. Sure seems strange that neither Bill nor I noticed the cut line when we tied up. Oh well thank goodness for good luck!

Now it was time to get busy. I had a lot to do and only 2 weeks to do it. Leaving the boat on it's own in La Paz was going to be new and I was nervous. I decided to get solar lights to place inside the boat and come on at night automatically. I shined them right out the windows so it looks like there is someone home. Then I got some lace fabric and cut it up to cover the windows. The lights will shine out at night and the lace fabric will keep people from looking in. The window covers will also keep most of the sun out and reduce UV damage. I did some varnish work outside, took the sails off and put them below (don't think that is an easy task they are HUGE), I put vinegar in the toilets and pumped it through to reduce the mineral buildup inside the hoses, I put anti-chafe hose



The prop looks like new!



They put the boat back in the water before I had a chance to get some pictures!

over the mooring bow lines where they go through the chocks, I put solar lights on the outside of the boat for more light at night, I took off all the lines that I could to protect them from sun damage, I tied on the covers for the winches and instruments to be sure the wind didn't blow them off, I emptied the water tank to lighten the boat and keep the barnacles below my new bottom paint line, I put water in the batteries, emptied out the fridge and gave it all to Craig and Jennifer, put the dingy on the deck and

secured it really well, put the outboard motor inside so no one steals it, put the bimini and dodger below. I was trying to think of everything. To be secure from theft and to be ready for a hurricane. I am so glad I chose that spot for the mooring. It is right outside the marina entrance. Everyone that goes in or out goes right by. The guy that came by when I was floating around the bay said he will keep an eye on it when he goes by and flip my solar panels up when the blow down. They are just held up by sticks... I have not figured out a better solution. But the best of all is that Shelly and Mike said they would motor Talion to a marina if a hurricane is expected. Perfect!

So at the end of May I bussed to Cabo and flew to Denver to take care of Andrea for 2 weeks while Denise and Paul go on their first vacation from her in 5 years!

And then there was a 2 week delay before I sent the letter. My computer died! The good news is that a computer that cost me \$3,500 10 years ago cost less than \$350 now. So after restoring all my information and programs I am quickly getting it in the mail to you. Hope to see you in September... still need to figure out how I am getting there and where I am staying but I am planning on it.

See you then! Love,

Patsy

