

Dear Pops & Mom,

August 5, 2010

Hope you two are doing well. I (as usual) have not been slowing down at all. After spending a little over a week with the Ogiers Paul's Mom came to visit so I took off with the rafting friends to check out some pontoon tubes for our new motor rig. The guys decided if they want to continue rafting they need to consider that they're having a harder time rowing down the river with blown shoulders, bad knees and bad backs. And since the days

on the river have been reduced to 16 there is no time to rest and recover. So Tim, Mike, and I searched the internet and found some tubes for sale at a guys house just outside Denver. Tim picked me up, we met Mike there, and spent the entire day blowing up and cleaning the 6 tubes. Most of the older motor rigs are made from these type of tubes. They are all army surplus from the 50's and were made for pontoon bridges. 2 tubes were in great shape, 2 could be repaired, and 2 were pretty much just good for parts. I think having parts is a really good idea looking at the age of these



things. I am a huge supporter of these guys doing this because it will assure me a ride anytime so I volunteered to sew straps, bags and do anything to help. After that I spent a few days around Aspen with Jeff, Janet, Michaelleen, and Tim from the Grand Canyon trip and some others. It is such a beautiful area but the altitude just exhausts me. I didn't have the energy to do anything so we had a very mellow 4th of July.

I got back to Portland on July 6 just in time to go to a dinner party at my friend Nancy Horner's house in the West hills of Portland. It was great to see everyone I had missed since my visit last summer and Nancy is a fabulous hostess. Fish stew, bread,



*John and Linda's home*

salad, fresh berry shortcake, and an evening on her deck overlooking all of Portland.

Three days later Carolyn and I headed up to Camano Island north of Seattle to visit John and Linda Cavanaugh. I have known John for over 30



*My Room*



crab pots in the water right next to the boat. Linda has done a great job redoing the cabin and even converted the garden shed into a bedroom with a loft. Very cute and a great place to stay. Unfortu-

years, he was my sister's boyfriend in the 70's for about 10 years and was practically a member of our family. John went on the 2006 Grand Canyon trip and was a great friend of Dale's and racquetball partner. John and Linda live in a one bedroom summer cabin right on the water. Their sailboat is moored just off their deck with their



nately the house has no insulation, bad plumbing, dry rot, and a floor plan that cannot be changed. They need more space as John works completely out of the house (he sells chipboards for Merix Corporation) when he is not traveling to China or elsewhere. So in the next couple months they are tearing down the whole house and shed and building new. How sad... we had so much fun in our 3 days and 2 nights sailing, getting the crab, cooking and cleaning the crab, buying oysters from the neighbor and

barbecuing them, walking on the beach and just catching up.

On the way home Carolyn and I stopped off in Ridgefield, Washington (just north of Vancouver) for dinner at Pete and Roseanne's. Pete works at Schooner Creek and they have both become great friends and knew Dale. They cruised the Sea of Cortez for 2 years and have been down to visit me in La Paz. Pete and Roseann have a huge (like 60 pound) tortoise, 2 horses, 2 goats, a dog and three cats all on their 40 acres with big barn. Oh and 4 boats in various stages of construction.

What a great group for dinner! Tim Morris (raced on Talion on the Banderas Bay Regatta in March and on the Baja Ha Ha in October with Morgan) and his girlfriend



*Ardy, Patsy, Marv, Pete, Roseann, Carolyn, Susan, Tim and the dog... Rusty*



*These people know how to have fun!  
They put all these boats in up the  
Columbia tied together and drifted.  
That's Craig's boat in the background.  
He had just gotten back from Mexico.*

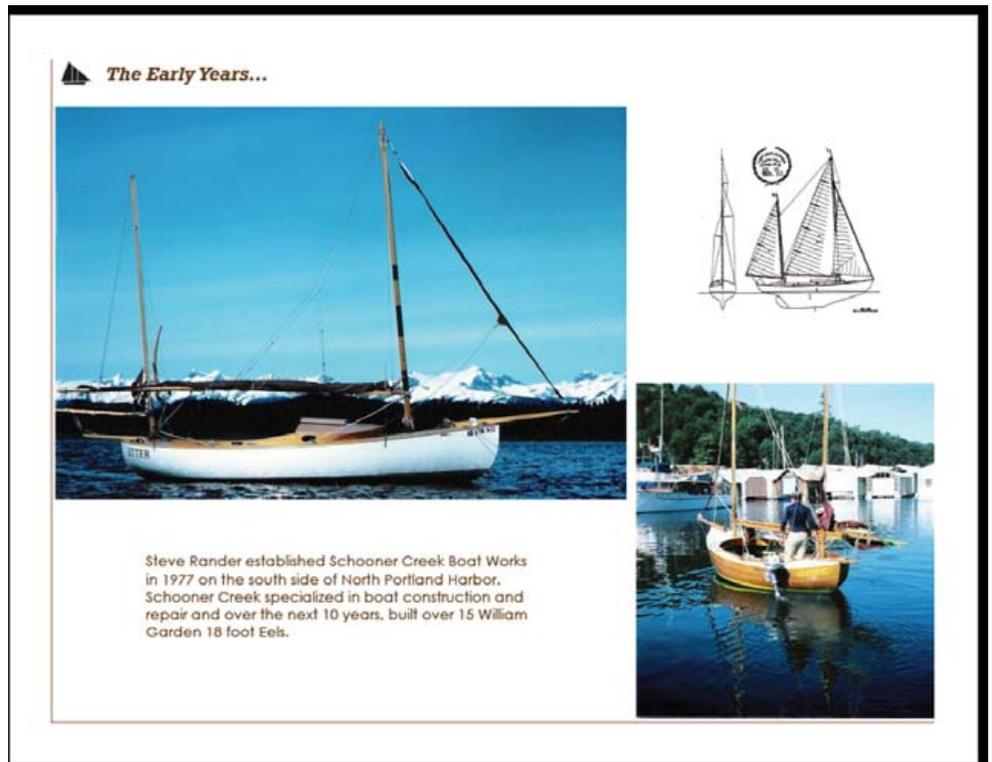
The rest of the month I spent trying to find parts and stuff I need in Mexico. For example all of the aluminum foil in Mexico is so thin it just falls apart. The fancy engine oil the mechanics make me use costs twice as much in Mexico. I also buy any boat parts I can because I can get them at wholesale using Schooner Creek's account. As an added bonus everything is free of sales tax if I buy it in Oregon. Leslie's painted glass business is so slow she decided she didn't have the money to pay me to help her at her shows so she is doing all the summer shows by herself. Bummer... less income for me. I had a few things in the pan with Schooner Creek so I dropped in and ended up working for



*I got a chance to do a little sailing while in Portland*

Susan Coulson, Marv and Ardy Dunn (they have the boat Odyssey and went up to Loreto in their boat with Alison, Lori and me on Talion in April).

Once again I was staying at my sister and her husband (Jon and Sue Drake). Sad news at the Drake home. Jon's dad died. He had broken his hip 2 years ago and just never got back to himself again. So Jon headed for Leavenworth, Washington to meet up with his sister and deal with the estate. Sue and I went to visit and Jon seems quite happy there. I think he is enjoying the break from my sister!



*A page from the Schooner Creek Boat Works Book*

a week for them which is much more profitable than working for Leslie anyway. I re-did an in-shop phone book that has numbers and other contact information for all of the frequently called businesses, I worked on a new plan for a completely re-designed web site, and I made a rough draft of a book. The book will be a hard bound coffee table type book with color photos and information about the boats Schooner Creek has built throughout the years. They are going to use it to as a marketing piece to get more business from yacht designers. They have 2 boats under construction now but when those two are done they will have nothing to build. Looks like the economy has slowed them down too. It was fun to spend some time working with the boys in the boatyard and to catch up. While I was there I



snagged some time in the woodshop and used the drill press and a plug cutter to make 200 teak plugs for Talion's toe rail. The rail leaks so badly and will be a huge task as it is two 50' 2x4's with 150 bolts going through the deck. It will need to come off and be re-bedded. I'm saving that task for November in La Paz but I needed to get the plugs while I had the chance. I got to go sailing on the Columbia River a couple times with some old friends and met some new ones, good times. There were a few nights out to dinner, barbecues at the Yacht Club, concerts, lunches, and happy hour cocktails. Everyone was grateful I had come to visit because it got them all to get

*There is just nothing like the scenery on a sailboat in Portland...*

*too bad it's so cold!*

together. Seeing so many people gave me the opportunity to sign some of them up for the next Banderas Bay Regatta this March and the Baja Ha Ha in October of 2011! One evening I met with the crew for this October's Baja Ha Ha. I know these people a little but not all that well and have never sailed with them. They are willing to share the expenses at \$500 per person which will cover everything and then some. They are all very good sailors from Portland but they are more used to small boats and don't have very much ocean sailing experience.



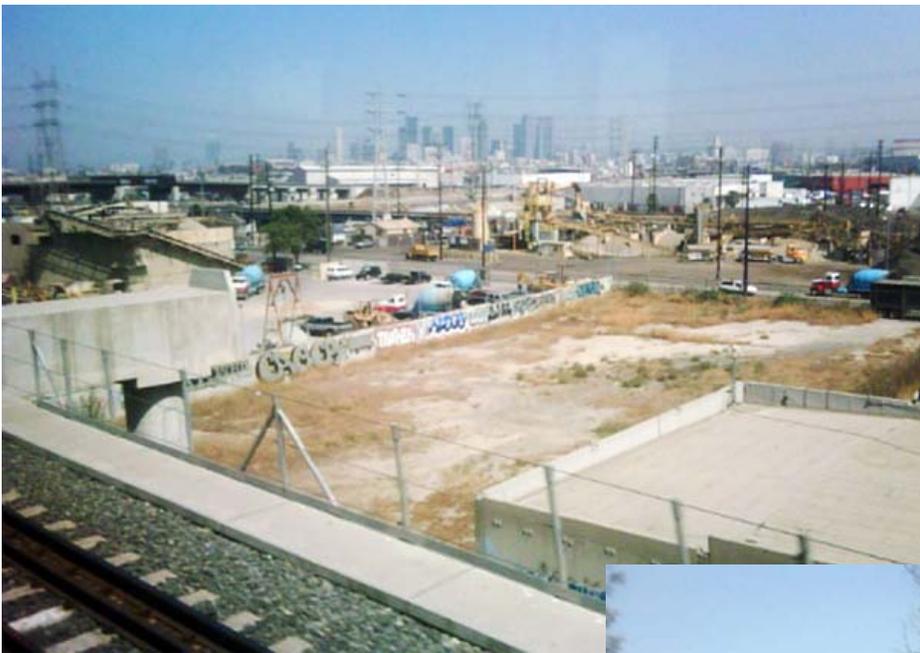
*I even got a chance to do some sailing with my sister, Sue*

We got along very well, they are young, know about sailing, competitive, love to cook and I think they will take orders well. Perfect!

Time to quit visiting and get ready for the long haul back to Mexico! The first order of business was to empty everything out of the van and clean it from top to bottom including the carpets. It is usually never that empty so I wanted to grab the opportunity. Wow, it looks great! On the way back from Camano Island the shift lever broke and we could only shift from neutral to drive. It was challenging to find parking places that didn't require reverse but we made it back. The ford dealer only



*My view from Portland to Los Angeles*



*The view from the train is not that great through LA*

They want you to spend your dollars in Mexico and not bring things across the border. So next I spent a lot of time carefully packing. I needed to load the van to look like I was just going camping and put stuff under the bed and up in the cubby holes above. I packed food (why does Mexico's tuna taste like cat food smells?), dish soap, fabric softener (theirs is ALL scented), napkins (I love IKEA's napkins), in with sleeping bags and clothing. I also needed to take the packaging off anything new so it looks like I didn't just buy it.

charged \$150 to fix it. I thought that was a bargain especially since they gave me a free rental car. While they had it in the shop they did a recall/warranty computer fix which made the indicator for the brakes finally work. It showed that the brakes were very bad so I had them repaired too. Not so inexpensive but I am very glad I did it. Then another trip to Midas for a little re-weld on the exhaust system and the van is like new... well as like new as a vehicle with over 200,000 miles on it can be!



*But just beautiful closer to Santa Barbara*



*Lucky kids to sail in such a fabulous race on a great boat!*

Elliot and his girlfriend Jessica were driving down with me and taking the plane back on August 10. We finally left Portland early Wednesday the 28th. Kinda nice riding in the back of the van while they drove. Reminded me of riding in the back watching movies while Dale would drive us to rafting trips in Utah or down to California to visit you. We were first headed to a sailboat race from Santa Barbara Yacht Club to King Harbor Yacht Club in Redondo Beach. Yes I know.... very close to you! I coordinated with the other crew members and planned to drop the van at the Amtrak Station in Fullerton. We took the train from Fullerton to Santa Barbara and met up with the other crew. We spent the day stocking the boat with groceries and



helping with boat repair tasks to get ready to race. We were sailing on "Profligate" a huge catamaran (63') owned by Richard Spindler the owner of *Latitude 38* magazine in San Francisco. The race started Saturday morning with light air and clouds. We sailed past the oil rigs and around Anacapa Island and headed towards King Harbor Yacht Club in Redondo Beach. Then the wind became very light. It takes a lot of wind to move a boat that big so after flopping around for a couple hours we decided to drop out of the race and motor in. We got to the dock at the yacht club by midnight but by the time we

*The kids loved napping on the trampoline on the front of the boat*

got all tied up and felt good about how the boats were tied up on both sides of us it was 3 am. After a few hours of sleep we caught some breakfast at the yacht club and then went down to pack the sails, put the lines away, and wash down the boat. It was after noon before our ride showed up to take us and my friends Tiffany and Glenn to the van. We gave Glenn a ride to his car in Santa Ana and Tiffany a ride to her house in San Diego. The kids had never been to San Diego so I

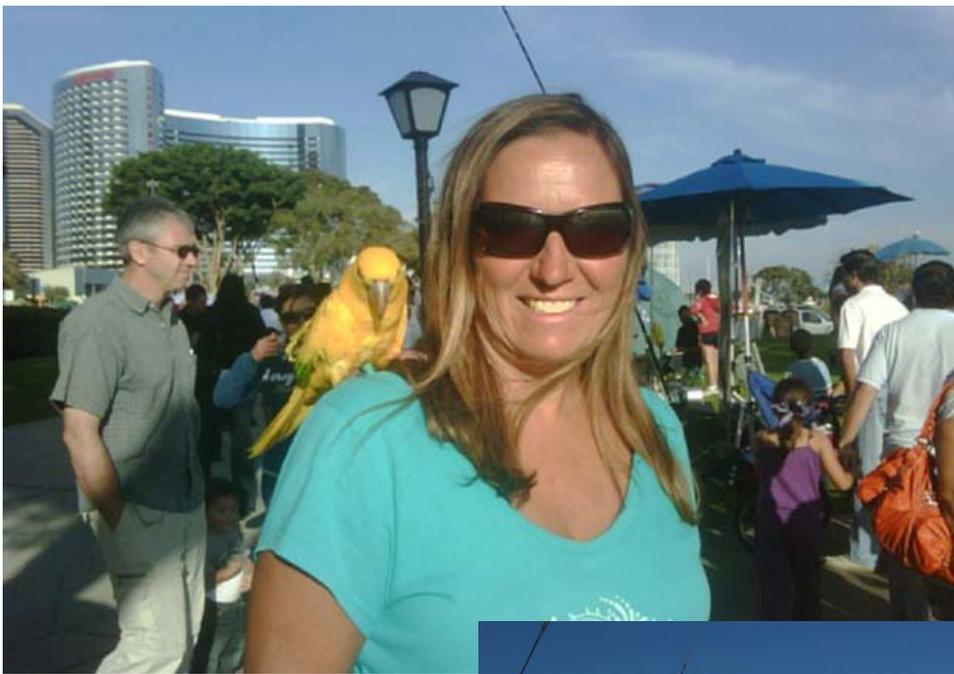


*Oil rigs look really big from the sea*



**WHALE!**

gave them the 1 hour tour with a quick walk through Seaport village and then got across the border and to Ensenada for the night. They were so excited when we crossed the border. It is fun to see things through young people's eyes. The next morning we drove all the way to Puerto Escondido. I was going to stop sooner but I really wanted to get to the boat so I just took it slow all the way and got there at midnight. Unfortunately the night watchman was no where to be found so I couldn't get out to the boat. Ugh. A long night trying to sleep across the two front seats with the kids sleeping in the back of a very hot van!



After so little sleep over the past few days I cannot believe that we cleaned the boat, emptied the van, moved the stuff from the boat to the van, and put most everything away all in one day. Then our luck was really good when some cruising friends came over and said they needed to go to La Paz and that they could save bus fare if they drove the van down for us! That saved us one day of a bus trip up and a drive down. The next morning (yes I got some sleep) we got groceries, washed the boat, loaded up on ice, and headed to La Paz.

*Doing the tourist thing in Seaport Village, San Diego*

What fun to see these two giggle over the dolphins, sail the boat, play in the dinghy, see their amazement at the manta rays jumping out of the water and landing with a slap on their backs. We did a little fishing and caught a huge shark. And then wrapped the fishing line around the prop. I hate fishing! They

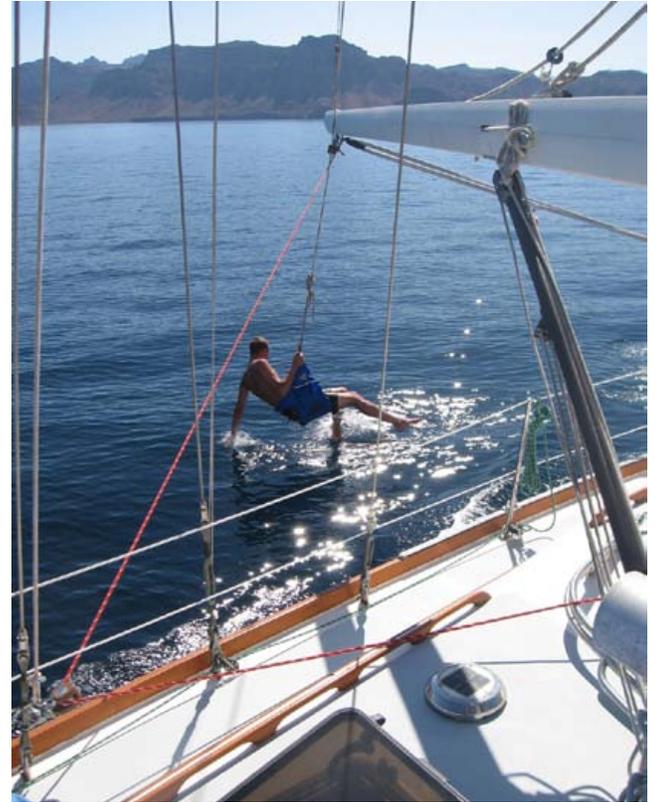


had a ball swinging from the bosuns chair which we attached to the end of the boom and even had fun diving under the boat to cut the line off the shaft. We even stopped at a Sea Lion colony so they could swim with the sea lions. Now we are back in La Paz. Elliot and Jessica are both avid kite boarders and brought all of their equipment with them so this morning they took the van over to the pacific side



*I did manage to save the lure!*

of the Baja peninsula to look for wind. There is just not enough wind over here during this time of year. I am now getting into my tasks to get the boat ready to go up to San Diego. I need to sew some covers for some of the leaky hatches. They are old and there is no way to stop the drips. I am hoping that sewing snap on covers will end that issue. I need to put a coat of wax on the hull sides and varnish in some bare spots. I also want to go through all the lockers and compartments to make sure I am not taking more stuff than I need. Weight makes the boat go so much slower and uses more fuel. Colin is currently working on the generator so I hope that will go in without a hitch. I don't



*It was very hot. This way they can have fun, play in the water, cool off and I don't have to stop and wait while they do it!*

have much for refrigeration without that generator. My plan to buy a 12 volt compressor did not pan out. After talking to people, researching, and pondering it was just not the thing to do. It would just add more to an already dysfunctional system and make it more complex. The right way to do it is to take out all of the compressors, tubes, valves, and cold plates. Then add more efficient insulation to the inside of each of the refrigerator and freezer boxes and then install 2 new 12 volt compressors, tubes, valves and cold plates for each of the fridge and freezer. So I am hoping Colin is as good with generators as he is with engines so that I can stick to the current system of plugging in at the dock or running the generator when away from the dock until I have the time and money to invest in a permanent power saving solution.



My plan is to leave La Paz August 23 and be in San Diego by Labor Day. I have two great crew members for the trip up. Tim Horne from river rafting (a diesel mechanic) and Marv Dunn (a sailor). Perfect!

Time to bring this update to a close. I am looking forward to September and have arranged to ride up with you and Jeff. I will take the train from San Diego and then a shuttle to your house.

Take Care!  
Patsy