

Dear Pops & Mom,
Here's my exciting news. Paul has gotten a new job in Laguna Niguel! He wasn't really looking for a new job as he had just gotten started at the development firm in Colorado but his friend J.J. (who he worked with in Mexico) insisted he apply. So in September just as I was leaving Colorado he flew to California and met with the company. Denise and



Judy and Bill came down to watch the start and helped Tim repair the spinnaker pole



Parade at the start... as you can see from my outfit it was a cold cloudy day!

small 2 bedroom house in order to make the move so my bed will be the couch. Oh well... at least they will be closer to the ocean and a place Talion can reach. So I'm thinking about taking the boat up earlier in the summer next year so I can spend some time with Andrea. That will put me closer to you guys too so plan on lots of lunch's at BJ's! Bill and Judy have a mooring in Newport and said they might know of one I can rent for a few months this summer. I hope I can find something because Califor-



Paul didn't think it would work out because Paul would need a substantial amount more in salary than he was making in Colorado. The cost of living is a lot higher in Orange County than in Denver. They negotiated and negotiated and at the beginning of this month came to an agreement. Denise says they will have to get a



nia is expensive for me too. But if Newport doesn't work out I can always go to San Diego and anchor for free for 3 months.

It was fun to visit you last month. Carolyn also said she was happy to finally meet Dale's parents. After visiting with you we zipped back to San Diego via Newport and the 73.

The next day Carolyn headed back to Portland. She was getting ready to do a sailing rally from the east coast to the Caribbean. In fact she is there now.



More pictures of the parade at the start and Richard and Donna's boat "Profligate" below is the Committee Boat.

I managed to get a free slip in San Diego Yacht Club for a couple of nights and Alison came down to spend some time. She and I drove all over getting provisions for the Baja Ha Ha and getting some things I needed for the boat. In addition to Alison friends Jack and Elisa Becker came down from Portland for a visit. Yikes





Brrrrrrr

The start of the Baja Ha Ha is a parade of the 150 boats out of the San Diego harbor. This is very popular with the city with spectators on the shore and it even makes the news. Then at 11 am is the actual start. This is not a real sailboat race. There are very relaxed rules. For instance if there is no wind the race committee will often tell the fleet to motor until the wind picks up. Well on that first day the wind never did pick up so we motored until 7 am the next morning. That was great with me so I could get some sleep. Tim and Jennifer can stand watch by themselves when we motor. The next morning Richard called off the motoring and we started sailing in light winds but we were at least able to make some headway.

A typical day for me on the Baja Ha Ha begins with the morning "net" on the radio. When we are out at sea it is on the high frequency radio which is very long range. I use the ham radio I just got fixed. It worked great and I was able to listen and respond. All cruising nets are about the same starting with any emergency traffic first. The local net in La Paz is on every morning at 8 am and after the request for emergency

I only have 10 days before the Ha Ha and I have stuff to do! Somehow I managed to get a coat of varnish on the outside and wash and wax the hull. I have been so much time repairing the systems I am afraid Talion is looking a little shabby. During that time I also needed to complete the menus for the 2 week trip down the coast as well as do the provisioning of the fresh foods. Marv's son lives in San Diego and loaned me one of his bikes. I hauled all the groceries on that bike. I think 4 trips. Great exercise!

This year my crew consisted of Marv, Tim (from Aspen) and a friend Jennifer. Unfortunately Tim and Jennifer are not experienced sailors so we had to divide up into 2 watches. This makes it hard for me because I have so many other tasks to do I don't seem to get enough rest. But I managed to make it happen.



Strange flare just floating out on the ocean with no one around. We changed our course so we could check it out.

traffic there is tides, weather, new arrivals and departures, club announcements, names of those who have mail in the club mailbox, who had a package delivered, and on into local assistance where people ask for help on anything from the best dentist in town to where to get their alternator repaired. It is very informative and a part of my daily routine while at home in La Paz. On the Ha Ha the net is a little bit different as after the emergency part there is weather, any requests for assistance, the schedule for the day if we are in port, and then he goes through each boat as they report in their daily position. This can



Flying a flag for each of the Baja Ha Has I have done.



Volleyball in Turtle Bay

on watch and trim sails while Marv takes a nap. Marv usually gets up around lunch time. I cook every dinner and the crew makes lunch so, yippee, I just sit and wait to be served. Lunch is sandwiches or sandwich stuff rolled into a tortilla wrap. The afternoon is spent on boat tasks when I am not trimming and tweaking and trying to make the boat go faster. Sometimes I can sneak in a nap but not usually. Then at about 4 p.m. I start the pre-dinner preparations. A custom we started last year was to share a bottle of wine for sunset,. We did it again this year and decided it's a great custom. At sunset we are watching for a

take almost 2 hours each morning and is actually quite entertaining. I volunteered to be the Race Committee's backup radio person so I record the position of each boat as they report in. If something were to happen to Richards radio I want to be ready. After the net I go



Sewing other boats torn sails



phenomenon called the "Green Flash". Just as the sun sets on the horizon it changes to a very vivid green color. I have watched for the green flash for years and last year on the way back from Puerto Vallarta saw a glimpse of a little one. This year we really saw the sun turn green. What a treat! After sunset I finish cooking and the crew sits at the table for dinner while I go out on watch. When

People are always shocked that we can seat 12 for dinner

they are done I eat, do the dishes, and then at 8 p.m. I am on watch for 2 hours. By 10 p.m. I am pretty tired so I catch a couple hours sleep. If something happens in the middle of the night I will quite often have to get up to help so my 2 hour nap often becomes more like 1 hour. Then I am back on watch at midnight till 2, and then on 4-6 and then on the radio at 7:30. It took 2 more days to get to our first stop Turtle Bay and I was exhausted! We had a little tear in the mainsail so I was prepared to get the sewing machine out. On the morning net at the request for help portion there were a few boats in need of sail repair so I told them to bring them over. I repaired 4 spinnakers and 2 mainsails that day. Lots of work but it really helped the other boats so I was glad to do it. We had a good rest, went out to dinner, joined the other boats in a huge beach party/ pot luck, played volleyball, and even found the time to do some boat repairs. It was nice to have Tim along as he was constantly fixing things. In fact when we finished the rally we had fixed more things than we broke. A first for Talion!



You don't even need to put your dingy in the water. These fishermen will come out and pick you up for only a buck.

The start of the second leg was pretty light winds so we flew a very light air spinnaker and managed to make slow headway. Talion is a pretty heavy boat and needs a lot of wind to get going so it is frustrating when the wind is light and other boats pass us. But considering that we were short handed it was good to have light wind. If the wind was really heavy



Line splicing and knot tying lessons from Marv

we probably would not have been able to fly a spinnaker. That leg took 2 days and 2 nights. Our days were spent catching a couple fish, splicing lines, reading books, listening to music, watching for the green flash and trimming the sails. In this rally beating the boats in our class is not that important because all you have to do to get first place is sail all the way and only mo-



tor during prescribed light wind times. But it is important to sail fast because you do need to finish within a certain time limit to get first place. So especially in light wind we try to get the boat moving as fast as it can.

Our second stop is in Bahia Santa Maria which is a little over



Tuna for lunch!

half way down the Baja. By now we were far enough south for warm water, warm air and lots of sunshine. On our first night at anchor we had two other boats over for a pot luck dinner. My friend Glen Twitchell (who came down to visit last April) was on a boat named Stargazer. Nice people and good to meet them as they are intending on staying in La Paz until they go back to Newport in the spring. The other boat was Tabu. They have done many Baja Ha Ha's and I knew them from year's past. So we had a sit down dinner on Talion with 12 people. Very fun and great food!

The next day there was a beach party put on by the local fishermen with seafood dinner for sale, beer, and music. It was a fun party but I came home early. The next morning's start was to be at 7 am and that means pulling the anchor at 6. I needed to rest up.



In Turtle Bay I spent quite a bit of time and materials repairing a spinnaker for three guys on a very light weight and very fast catamaran. They insisted on compensating me in some way so I talk them they could pay me by taking Talion's crew out for a sail on their boat. In Cabo San Lucas they paid their debt and when they put up the repaired spinnaker this is what it said in yellow duct tape!

The last leg was 2 days and one night. We had wind from all directions and of varying strengths. It kept us all busy. By this time we were quite a team as Jennifer and Tim learned more and more about

raising, lowering, changing, and trimming the sails. We arrived in Cabo San Lucas on Friday the 4th just in time to go to shore and to the "we made it" celebration. We were pretty tired so once again the Talion crew cut the party short and headed back to the boat. The next couple days were spent cleaning up the boat, getting fuel and water in the tanks, and preparing for the trip to La Paz. On Saturday there was an awards ceremony where Talion took first in class and got a special award for sailing all the way. It never ceases to amaze me that so many people motor. I think there were less than 10 out of 140 that sailed all the way.



The city of La Paz, local businesses, and the La Paz marinas put on a wonderful party to welcome the new cruisers. It was free for the first 25 people from the Ha Ha so you-know-who was one of the first in line!

plus knots. We tried to go out one morning at 4 am as the wind was only blowing about 5 knots in the anchorage. By 5 am it was blowing 30 knots and by 5:30 it was showing over 40. Way too windy for me so we turned around and went back to anchor. We were stuck there 3 days. By the time we got to La Paz Tim had missed his flight. We got him out of town the next day and I was finally home by myself!



The party was at a great new restaurant with yummy pizza.

My tasks this week have been to continue working on deck leaks. I removed and re-bedded the two center hatches and the slider from the cockpit into the boat. Those tasks may sound easy but believe me they have been a nightmare. The two hatches alone used 6 tubes of caulk.

Hope you have a great Thanksgiving!

Love,

Patsy