



SAUVIE ISLAND YACHT CLUB NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 2524, Portland, OR 97208-2524

www.siyc.org

No. 355, December, 2014

SIYC OFFICERS '14 -'15

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Taunya Coutts (cruising reports)

Website
Mark Nerczuk



January Membership Meeting

Speakers:
George & Sue Stonecliffe

January 2nd 2015, 7:00pm

More information on page 2

Upcoming Events

New Year's Cruise
January 17th - 18th 2015
More information on page 2

February Membership Meeting
Friday February 6th at 7:00pm

This month's cruising reports
start on page 8

Nov. Thanksgiving Cruise



Six SIYC Boats and two Guest boats attended this year's Thanksgiving Cruise at Hadley's Landing. What a great time was

had by all that attended. In attendance was Gary of S/V Cambria, Dave of S/V Hawksbill, George & Sue of S/V Julia Max, Ray & Alicia of S/V Rowena, Terry & Michelle of S/V Conch, and Richard of S/V Moonshadow. Guests included Paul Wise of S/V Open Water and Tara & Nate Powning of S/V Junovia.

With two awnings put up we had quite a large space to congregate. Everyone brought out their chairs and beverages of choice to swap sailing stories.

Dave was gracious enough to make his famous BBQ Turkey, what a hit! Other dishes rounded out the meal, from mashed potatoes to pie, it was almost like we planned it all perfectly.



Sunday morning's breakfast was held aboard S/V Julia Max. It was a lovely spread of sweet and savory breakfast treats. Sue Stonecliffe suggested a walk around Wapato Greenway Loop, most of the group thought that sounded great and join for a nice walk.

After the morning walk the boats started to depart from Hadley's Landing. A wonderful weekend was had by all.

December Holiday Party

Craig & Barbara Johnston hosted another lively holiday party at their beautiful home this year. There was an amazing turn out, all the tables were full!

The club tree was displayed proudly covered with ornaments from members throughout the years. It's a fun combination of homemade and store bought ornaments. Taking some time to look over the tree is a fun way to view club history through ornaments.



The food, like usual, was fantastic. No one went home hungry. However with so many in attendance, certain items went fast.

Barbara Johnston and Sue Stonecliffe serenaded the group on the cello and piano respectively.



They played a combination of classical and Christmas that defiantly set the mood for a fun evening ahead.

After a bit of club business we moved on to the holiday gift exchange. Always interesting, this year lived up to the last with the stealing and swapping of gifts.

What a wonderful way to celebrate the holiday season with our fellow club members. A great time was had by all.

New Year's Cruise

January 17th - 18th 2015

**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR**

This years New Year's cruise to be held at Coon Island-East Dock.

Gary Weber will be hosing aboard his boat S/V Cambria.

Saturday night there will be a pot luck dinner with a food theme of 'Warm and Hearty'.

Sunday morning there will also be a pot luck breakfast before all the boats head to their home ports.

This will be the first cruise of the New Year, we would love to see you there! This has always been a fun cruise for SIYC members, and we hope to see you there.

If you have an questions please call Gary Weber:

Jan. Membership Meeting

'North to Alaska' Program



George and Sue Stonecliffe will be presenting photos of their summer trip from Portland to Glacier Bay, Alaska, at the SIYC Club Meeting on Friday, January 2nd at 7pm.

Recipe of the Month

By Taunya Coutts of S/V On A Whim

Salad Rolls

Salad rolls are commonly found in Thai and Vietnamese cuisines. They are a roll made of rice paper wrapped around a variety of herbs, meats, noodles and lettuce. The fillings vary greatly depending not only on the particular country, but also by chef and even by what is readily available at hand. The one thing you will need, is dried rice paper rounds. These are commonly found in most supermarkets in America, I'm not sure how readily you can find them abroad – but they do keep well so stock up when you have the opportunity.

Ingredients

Fresh vegetable options: Lettuce, Bean sprouts, grated carrot, shredded cabbage
Rice stick noodles – spaghetti style

Protein options: Boiled Pork (cut in very thin slices against the grain), Fried tofu (sliced in strips), Boiled shrimp (shelled and sliced in half), asian sausages (steamed and slice lengthwise), chicken meat,

Herb options: mint, cilantro, rau ram, basil (preferably asian) – Washed and leaves removed from stems
Rice paper rounds (larger are generally easier to manage)

Dipping Sauce:

Hoisin sauce and peanut butter
Nam Pla: Lime, sugar, water, fish sauce, fresh minced garlic, (optional add sliced bird eye chilis)

I've given options for a wide variety of ingredients and you will find there are certain combinations that are typically used for a particular region. My favorite is Vietnamese which uses bean sprouts, lettuce, noodles, all the herbs, pork and shrimp. I prefer the hoisin dipping sauce as well. But you can use whatever you have at hand.

To assemble the rolls, you will need a bowl of very hot water, possibly wrapped in a towel to keep it warm. So long as it is at least as hot as tap water, it will work fine. I usually boil water when using the bowl method to maintain the heat for as long as possible. Dip your round into the water, and turn it into a circle ensuring that all parts are moistened. You can feel it will start to become pliable, but move quickly before it gets floppy and sticks together. Once it is completely wet, place it on a large plate and fill it with toppings about one third of the way from the edge. Once you've filled it with all the ingredients you like, begin rolling from the closest edge – similar to how you would roll a burrito. As the halfway point is reached, fold in the sides and continue rolling until complete. To mix the dipping sauces – the hoisin sauce is simple. Use about 50/50 peanut butter and hoisin sauce in a bowl adding and stirring with hot water until it is the consistency of a thick sauce that will stick well to your roll, without being too pasty.

The Nam Pla is made by combining water, fish sauce, lime juice and sugar until it tastes right. If it's too salty, add more sugar. If it's too strong add water. If it's too sour, add more sugar. A clove of garlic and some grated carrot give it more appeal.

These recipes are usually handed down from mother to daughter in SE Asian communities without the benefit of recipes or detailed amounts being written down.

I purposely did not include amounts because these are set up by taste. Find the combinations that appeal to you and feel free to experiment.

Salad rolls are similar to a SE Asian sandwich – there is no right or wrong to them, just whatever you like best!



Portland Boat Show Booth

This year we will have a booth at the Portland Boat Show. Our goal will be to grow the membership of the club. We have recently printed new brochures and are having a banner made.

Richard Sandefur and Ray McCracken have procured the booth but need your help. They are looking for people to man the booth and for any and all pictures you are willing to share from your travels. They are hoping to have a slide show of club members while cruising.

Please contact Richard if you are willing to help in any way, either with the booth, pictures, or both. Richard Sandefur

SIYC Clothing & Accessories For 2014 to 2015

To give you an idea of what you can purchase, here is a short list.

Sport Tek Tech Fleece Ladies Tech Fleece
Full-Zip Hooded Jacket; Ladies sizes xs-4XL
\$49.00

1/4-Zip Pullover; Adult sizes xs-4XL
\$47.00

Sport Tek Super Heavy Weight Sweatshirts
Crew neck; Adult sizes xs-4XL
\$37.00

Pullover Hooded; Adult sizes xs-4XL
\$43.00

Full Zip Hooded; Adult sizes xs-4XL
\$47.00

See me, Sarah Daugherty, at the meetings or email at



Club Business

SIYC Membership Meeting

December 6, 2014

Home of Craig & Barbara Johnston

SIYC celebrated Christmas with a wonderful potluck hosted by Craig and Barbara Johnston and attended by 35 people including 7 guests.

All officers were present but there were no officer reports other than reminders of the changed dates of the January cruise. It will be at Coon Island on January 17-18, hosted by Garry Weber. There may be interest in land cruises this winter as well.

Richard Sandefur and Ray McCracken are organizing volunteers to host a club table at the Portland Boat Show January 7-11, 2015.

The next membership meeting will be January 2nd, led by Richard in Craig's absence. Paul Wise, owner of s/v "Open Water" will be inducted to membership. George Stonecliffe will present a slide show "Cruising to Alaska."

Barbara Johnston and Sue Stonecliffe played Christmas favorites on cello and piano followed by a very entertaining gift exchange. In total members donated \$475.00 and two bags of food to the Oregon Food Bank.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Stonecliffe, Secretary

Thanks and Appreciation

Special thanks to Craig & Barbara Johnston for hosting the club Christmas party at their beautiful home.

Special thanks to Sue Stonecliffe & Barbara Johnston for sharing their beautiful music with us at the club Christmas party.

Special thanks to all the club members who donated to the Oregon food bank. In all we donated \$475.00 and two bags of food.

Congratulation

Congratulations to Terry & Charing O'Shea's daughter Katie Dishough for being published in *Cruising Outpost*. Katie's article entitled "Sailing to Canada: learning life lessons" was about her trip with her father, Terry, Ray McCracken and Alicia Watkins up to Barkley Sound Canada. The article can be found on page 152 of the Winter 2015 issue.

Upcoming Boat Shows

Portland Boat Show: January 7 -11 2015
55th Annual Boat Show at the Expo Center
Admission: \$10.00

Hours: Wed - Fri 11am – 9pm
Saturday 10am – 8pm
Sunday 10am – 6pm

Seattle Boat Show: Jan 23 – Feb 1 2015
Seattle boat show indoor and boats afloat.
Admission: \$12.00 / day
\$24.00 / 5-day

Indoor hours: Mon – Thurs 11am – 8pm
Friday's 11am – 9pm
Saturday's 10am – 8pm
Sun 1/25/15 10am – 6pm
Sun 2/01/15 10am – 3pm
Afloat hours: Mon – Friday 11am – 5pm
Saturday's 10am – 5pm
Sun 1/25/15 10am – 5pm
Sun 2/01/15 10am – 3pm

2014-2015 CALENDAR

GENERAL MEETINGS		BOARD MEETINGS		CRUISES	
Date/theme	Location	Date	Location	Dates	Where/theme
September 5 Potluck	Captain's Moorage	September 4	TBD	Sept. 13-14	Gilbert River Docks
October 3	Sauvie Island Academy	October 1	TBD	Oct. 25-26	Annual Halloween cruise – Government Island E.
November 7	Sauvie Island Academy	November 5	TBD	Nov. 22-23	Annual Thanksgiving cruise – Hadley's Landing
December 6	Christmas Party - TBD	December 6	At party		
January 2	Sauvie Island Academy	December 30	TBD	Jan. 17-18	New Year's cruise – Coon Island
February 6	Sauvie Island Academy	February 4	TBD	Feb. 14-15	Valentine Cruise – Coon Island
March 6	Sauvie Island Academy	March 4	TBD	Mar. 14-15	Anchoring Cruise
April 3	Sauvie Island Academy	April 1	TBD	April 18-19	Navigation Cruise
May 1 Annual Meeting/ Dessert Potluck	Sauvie Island Academy	April 29	TBD	May 16-17	Annual Race/Drift Cruise – Sand Island
June 6 Annual Picnic	TBD				

SIYC CRUISING BOATS

Boat Name	Owners' Names	Location
<i>Adagio</i>	Jeff & Jane Woodward	Sea of Cortez, Mexico
<i>Casita</i>	Devon Quinn & Rowan Madix	Alameda, CA
<i>LunaSea</i>	Frank & RaeAnn Haynes	Santa Catalina, CA
<i>Nashira</i>	Mike Floyd	La Paz, BCS, Mexico
<i>Penelope</i>	Peter & Susan Gierga	Cabo San Lucas, Mexico
<i>Perpetua</i>	Pat & Susan Canniff	Mazatlan, Mexico
<i>Pied-A-Mer III</i>	Eric & Pam Sellix	San Diego, CA
<i>Ranidan</i>	Jim & Linda Noval	San Diego, CA
<i>Silvergirl</i>	Bob Hulegard & Robin Fouche	Newport Beach, CA

Member Websites

- CarolMarie:** <http://www.svcarolmarie.com/>
- Julia Max:** <http://www.sailblogs.com/member/juliamax/>
- Penelope:** <http://cruisingwithcaptainpeterandtheadmiral.com/>
- Perpetua blog:** http://www.sailblogs.com/member/our_journeys/
- Perpetua Pictures:** http://imageevent.com/our_journeys/
- Moonshadow:** <http://www.voyagemoonshadow.blogspot.com/>
- Moontide:** <http://www.svmoontide.com/>
- Pied-a-Mer III:** <http://www.sailblogs.com/member/sesesail/>
- Ranidan:** <http://persimmonsky.wordpress.com/>
- Rowena:** <http://www.sailblogs.com/member/rowena/>
- Sequoia:** <http://www.svsequoia.com/>

SIYC members: Do you have a website or blog for your boat that isn't listed above? If so, please get the information to your trusty editor, Alicia Watkins, and we'll make sure your website or blog is included in future issues of the newsletter.

Other websites of interest to Portland area sailors

<http://www.siyc.org/> Our very own **Sauvie Island Yacht Club**. If you haven't checked out the club website yet, please do so – it's looking really good, and is full of informative articles and spectacular photography by club members.

<http://www.webnautica.us/CRYA/>: **Columbia River Yachting Association** – This is the umbrella organization for Yacht Clubs along the Columbia River – SIYC is a member. See especially their links to all the other yacht clubs' websites, and their calendar of club cruises.

<http://www.oregon.gov/OSMB/pages/index.aspx> **Oregon State Marine Board** – Your source for information related to licensing, safety, boater education, Oregon boating destinations and many other maritime concerns.

<http://www.weather.gov/> The **National Weather Service** – Find out what the weather will be *before* you head out on the water.

<http://threesheetsnw.com/> A Seattle-based website that's chock full of good information about cruising in Puget Sound and farther afield, plus general information that's helpful to any cruiser anywhere.

<http://www.owsa.net/> SIYC women – If an emergency arose while you were out cruising, could you take over from your partner? If not, this is the one for you: **Oregon Women's Sailing Association**. This local organization offers sailing classes (including cruising skills) especially for (and sometimes exclusively for) women.

CRUISING REPORTS

Jeff & Jane Woodward, S/V *Adiago*

We are finally in cruiser mode. The anchor is down in the lee of Isla Coronado (26°06 N / 111°16.7 W), about a dozen miles north and east of Loreto. Two other sailboats share the anchorage with us, but they are a half mile west of us and strangers. We are in 18' of water clear enough for us to see the anchor. It's 78°F outside and the water temp is 74°F. Just enough big puffy clouds are in the bright blue sky for our imaginations to create fanciful creatures floating by.



We are able to send you some pictures of the first few days of this year's cruise because we are getting a cell tower signal from Loreto. Once we are out of Loreto's cell tower range, the next chance for an internet connection will be La Paz which is about 135 miles or a week away. Then our only connection with the "real world" will be through our SailMail account.

We left San Carlos a little after noon on Thursday, 11 December. Our friends and hired workers, Jesus and Eduardo; as well as fellow cruisers Ken of *Rosebud*, Wendy and Mack of *Kookabarra*, and Sandy and Chris of *Faith* gave us a nice send-off. Our departure was a little early in order to avoid trouble with the falling tide. The previous week we watched another sailboat go hard aground on a hump just at the end of our dock. The early departure also gave us a long afternoon of daylight to test all the systems. Everything worked just fine and we settled into a comfortable motor sail across the Sea to San Juanico, a 100 miles/17 hours away.



In the photos you see our first sunset of the season at sea. And Janie's first keyboard session while at anchor in San Juanico.

Right about sunset there was a series of observations worth note. We saw a turtle working its way towards the beaches of Guaymas. Then there was something off the starboard side; not quite a splash, but a disturbance in the water - a sort of bubbling. It happened two or three times and then the head and bill of a fish came clear of the sea. It happened too fast and was too far away for a sure ID, but I'm pretty sure it was a 4-5 foot long sailfish.

We had a very unique view with the mountains behind Guaymas on the mainland side, and the mountains behind Santa Rosalia on the Baja side. At sunset we were able to see both sides of the sea at the same time. It was golden orange and as it progressed, the hues deepened and the glassy sea reflected the sherbet colors until it all faded to black. Once the sunlight was gone, it was hard to discern the horizon as the stars became indistinguishable from their reflections in the sea.

Once the sky turned pitch black, the sea was aglow. Our bow wake was an eerie blue green color and was so bright it almost hurt your eyes. There were two bow wakes and five stern wakes which were all very sharp and distinct. As far as the eye could see there were sparks and streams of light in the pitch black sea.

Janie saw what she thinks were dolphin jumping and splashing, but they stayed way off in the distance. They were so far off she couldn't hear them or see them - only the phosphorescence they created.

I think I saw two billed fish; a pair of marlin or sailfish that were about 6 or 7 feet long. They were pacing the boat about 30 yards off the starboard side and then suddenly close to the bow. I thought they were dolphin and I went up to watch them ride the bow's pressure wave. They did that but only for five seconds or so and then veered off. What makes me think they were fish and not dolphin is that they never came up to breathe, they seemed to be a lot slimmer than dolphin, and spent such a short time at the bow.



Soon after sunset the air was thick with moisture. We were constantly wiping the fog off the cockpit surround. Then suddenly around midnight it all changed; the air got warmer and dryer. We must have crossed an invisible atmospheric barrier, from moist mainland air to dry desert Baja air.

Other than that, the crossing was without incident. The sea was glassy calm, and at most we had some slight ripples and a gentle roll of less than a foot. There was not enough wind to unfurl the genny until just before sunrise on Friday morning. For a while we caught a nice land breeze that allowed us to give the engine a rest while still maintaining a respectful 5.5 knots. But as the sun rose, the breeze died and by the time we made it into Bahia San Juanico we were ghosting along making just a couple of knots. This was perfect for admiring this season's first view of the colorful rock formations of the Baja while slowly closing in on the empty anchorage. We had it all to ourselves except for the three camps of RV'ers on shore and the workers in the homes built into the rock cliff overlooking the bay.

Anxious to keep moving south, we left fairly early Saturday morning. We had a light northerly breeze. Not enough to go pure sail, but enough to keep the main pulling while the engine idled and the knot meter registered 4.5 to 5.0 knots. That run got us here to Isla Coronados where we are enjoying a lazy day aboard; checking our email and sending this out to you all. We hope this finds you healthy and happy. We hope your holiday plans are going smoothly and your season is full of joy.

Jeff & Jane
S/V Adiago
Isla Coronados, Mexico



Mike Floyd S/V Nashira

La Paz, (pronounced la pas) is wonderful. I was working on the boat when other boats from this year's "Haha" started showing up. There were some great stories! This is a terrific place to spend a winter (or two). The marina de la Paz is in the center of whatever I may need.



I'm still planning on repairing the mast and sailing away in the spring, but I'm trying to locate the wood. I plan to ship it down to Baja - Spirit Air has some great deals. The Christmas party was super, but I hope to be back in Mexico for New Year's. If the insurance keeps fighting me it could be

longer... (anyone know a good lawyer?)

Mike Floyd
S/V Nashira
La Paz, Mexico



Peter & Susan Gierga, S/V Penelope

November 11 – A Truly Bad Day in Paradise:

This was the worst day we've had in 72 days on the road. Remnants from the storm outside Puerto Vallarta, caused the Cabo San Lucas Bay, where we were at anchor, to heave and hove relentlessly throughout the night. Penelope rocked on her anchor at least as violently as the worst night in the ocean. The pots, pans, cups and dishes clanged from one side of the cupboard to the other.

Peter did not sleep a minute all night. First he was up closing the hatches so the rain wouldn't come inside. Then he was up again opening the hatches when it got too muggy down here. Later, he was attending to the dinghy to keep it from jumping off the davits. Long before daylight we decided to make our coffee. We sat on the settee trying to drink our coffee, only taking sips during the brief moments when the boat wasn't rhythmically rising and falling.

"We are going into the marina!" I announced. I got no argument from the Captain. Unfortunately, the marina wouldn't make a slip assignment until the outgoing boats had left. Finally, we were told we could take slip G-21. As Peter was wrestling with the dinghy, trying to return it to its stowed position, Penelope arose with the swell from underneath and lifted the servo paddle of the monitor wind vane into the inflated side of the dinghy pontoon, leaving a gaping hole about 8-inches long. Immediately, the dinghy deflated and hung limp from its hoist like a spent balloon. Like the piercing of the servo paddle into the dinghy, I felt a sharp pang to my heart for all that Peter has done and all he has been through to get us here. I cried for him.



November 12 – Peter Saves the Day, Again:

When the dinghy went flat, we were certain it was totaled. The rip extended right up to and against the rub rail. But, once Peter calmed down and was able to look at it, he surmised he could temporarily remove the rub rail, apply a patch and return the rub rail as before. For \$110 he purchased a hypalon patch and two part epoxy. He spent today preparing the area around the tear and applying the patch. We have a dinghy once again!

It's always a treat to be in a marina. Remember, we left Chula Vista the morning of October 27th. Unfortunately, Marina de Cabo San Lucas has a couple of glaring deficiencies. The wi-fi has not been restored since the hurricane and the water is not fit to drink.

November 13 – Costco Run:

Number three on the top ten mistakes made by first time cruisers is overprovisioning. Well, it looks like I, too, have fallen into the trap of fearing I'll never find another grocery store.

Over the several years we've lived on board, I've come home from Fred Meyer each week with bags and bags of groceries. Each week Peter has said, "Where are you going to put all that?" And each week I've easily stowed it all. Until now!

This morning we decided to combine our exercise with provisioning. Before it got too hot we ran to Costco – 4 miles away. We arrived just as they were opening. I went up and down each aisle so as not to forget anything. We loaded \$225 – cheese, nuts, crackers, vegetables – into a taxi and headed back to the Marina. I'm happy to report, it almost all fit. I was left with about 3 cubic feet of spinach that wouldn't fit into the refrigerator. Tonight's dinner: Steamed Spinach.

Tomorrow we will be heading up into the Sea of Cortez. By all accounts, this is officially the beginning of our cruising life. After all, for all of September and October we had the goal of 'getting to San Diego'. For the past 2 weeks we've had our awesome crew, Krista and Alex, on board and we participated in the Baja Ha Ha.

Now it's just Peter and me with no plan, nowhere to go, and too much food on board.



November 16 – Rest Day:

It's a luxury to take a rest day after a travel day and have nothing to do but explore our new surroundings. Two nights, back to back, of quiet sleep in a still and restful bay. Travelling north in the Sea of Cortez has me confused. All my life, being in the ocean meant the land is to the east and the Pacific Ocean is to the west, with Hawaii somewhere out there in the distance. When the land is on your left you are travelling south. When the land is on your right you are travelling north. Something you could always depend on.

Travelling in the Sea of Cortez is just the opposite. You think you are in the Pacific Ocean, mainland Mexico is too far away to see, but as you head north the land is on your left. In the evening, the sun sets behind the Baja peninsula instead of behind the ocean swell. Very strange.

November 17 – A Brutal Thrashing:

We pulled anchor at 6:00 am and motored out of the bay for our next destination, Ensenada de los Muertos, 46 nautical miles north. As soon as we turned the bow into the wind, we raised the main and the stays'l and pulled

out the jib. We had a lovely 10 knots out of the northwest. We were making 5-1/2 knots toward our destination and lovin' life.

As predicted, the wind was increasing. By noon we were seeing 17 – 20 knots and the sea was becoming unsettled. The wind chop was only 3 – 4 feet but each wave was arriving every 3 – 4 seconds. This combination made for a miserable ride.

The wind was now blowing hard and Penelope was heeling far to one side. The cap rail was under water and the deck was awash. We had to turn the boat as high into the wind as possible to keep her from heeling so far. This, of course, slowed her down. The wind chop on her bow made it hard to make any forward progress. Every few feet forward was followed by several stationary moments while the wave travelled along the underside of the hull, resulting in a net forward progress of less than 3 knots. We reefed the main and shortened the jib which further slowed the boat. About 1:00 pm we turned on the engine to help power through the tortured sea.

Peter stood at the helm, leaning 30 degrees to port, bracing himself against the cap rail, holding on to the solar panel arch overhead, to keep from being thrown from the boat. (Don't worry, Siggie, he's clipped in at all times.) The only comfortable place on board was horizontal on the settee. I would lie still for 15 minutes and then crawl hands and knees up the companion way to check on him. Peter wouldn't let me take the helm because it was so rough. Toward nightfall, I went out into the cockpit to sit with him and keep him company.

The wind didn't let up until we were three quarters of a mile from the protected bay at Ensenada de los Muertos. At 6:30 pm, in near darkness, we idled into the bay. Our friends, Ed and Melinda, arriving an hour before us, flashed their spreader lights to help show us the way. As soon as they saw us turn on our anchor light they called on the radio to see how we fared. They, too, had endured a brutal thrashing throughout the day. I believe everyone in the bay was asleep by 8:00 pm.

November 18 – Woke Up Tired:

We woke up tired. Twelve hours riding a bucking bronco yesterday resulted in tired, stiff bodies today. Our rest day feels like heaven.

Ensenada de los Muertos, which means Cove of the Dead, has been trying to attract a tourist industry for several years. Developers changed the name to Bahia de los Suenos, Bay of Dreams, and built a modern resort and golf course on the west end. They kept the golf course green and neatly trimmed for a while but when no one came to golf they let it go brown. On the other end, a number of wealthy people have vacation homes. It's all very lovely but there's no one here enjoying it except the local fishermen and us.



It took most of the day to get our 'house' back in order. Everything in all the cupboards was overturned. Everything else was on the floor.

November 19 – Single Side Band (SSB): Single Side Band (SSB)

Weather broadcasts have been hard to find. We no longer have VHF transmissions from every other town along the coast as we did in Oregon and California. All of the boats are in the same boat, so to speak.

This morning, Peter went over to *Silver Sea*. Her owner, John, plus Ed from *Lorien*, along with Peter were trying to make sense of the numerous single side band channels, frequencies and times purporting to provide weather conditions. Making it more confusing, we need to know “Universal Time” or Mean Greenwich Time when, in fact, I’m not completely sure which time zone we’re in. Peter returned full of information, made a few adjustments to our radio and was able to download a clear weather fax. Without NOAA and the abundance of information we are accustomed to, it’s kind of like sailing in the dark.

The wind picked up about 10:00 am and blew steadily throughout the day. Reminds me of the trade winds off Molokai. It blew hard enough to make Penelope feel like she was heeled over although she’s safely secured here on her anchor. It’s tiring to think what the sea may have to offer. I think we’ll stay another day.

November 22 – La Paz:

Without taking a day to rest, we travelled on to La Paz. We had intended to spend a night at Puerto Balandra, but, our friends, Ed and Melinda, aboard *Lorien*, had spent last night there and reported it was like riding a hobby horse all night. We briefly dropped anchor, took a few minutes to “ew” and “ah” at the beauty of it and motored into La Paz, 12 miles away.

Marina de la Paz is the cruiser’s mecca of Mexico. We have heard stores of many couples who get as far as La Paz and never go further. The marina is delightful. It’s not the newest or the fanciest marina on the Bahia de La Paz but it’s certainly most accommodating. For the very low price of \$37 per night we have Wi Fi, potable water, electricity, laundry, a convenience store, a restaurant, showers a book exchange and easy access to the municipal bus stop. I could live here!



November 25 – Good Morning La Paz:

eminent of the movie, *Good Morning, Vietnam*, Mike, from Club Cruiceros, came on the VHF radio, Channel 22 Alpha, at 8:00 am for the “Net”. “Good Morning, La Paz and Good Morning, Fleet!” he clamored. “It’s not too late to sign up for the Thanksgiving potluck. We need volunteers to carve turkeys starting at 1:00 pm.” I’ve heard they are expecting over 200 of us.

They announced the General Meeting of the club would be later today at La Costa Restaurant. The speaker, Alex, has sailed the Sea of Cortez for many years and has tips and tricks for cruising in the Sea. This was followed by Rides and Crew, Bay Watch, Lost & Found, Local Assistance and Swaps and Trades. Peter got on the radio to indicate he was looking for an anchor for our



dinghy. Within minutes Jim from *Ranadan* called back to say he had one we could have. The dinghy anchor will allow us to take the dinghy to an isolated reef for snorkeling without having to go to the beach. Just anchor the dinghy and jump in.

You may remember the brutal thrashing we took between Bahia Los Frailes and Ensenada de los Muertos. Peter stood at the helm all day, braced against the (wooden) cockpit without shoes while Penelope leapt over and through the waves. Tuesday his knee and his ankle were swollen. I encouraged him to elevate it, apply ice, and take ibuprofen, with little results. A week later, his ankle and knee were still swollen.

I used the Directory of Services from the www.clubcruiceros.net to find an orthopedist. At 2:00 pm Peter took a taxi to the doctor. Following an examination and ultra sound it was diagnosed as a torn ligament. They prescribed a strong anti-inflammatory, analgesic ointment, ice, elevate it and stay off it for two weeks.

We had been told the cost of medical treatment in Mexico was reasonable. Today we learned first hand. The total cost, including the taxi, who waited while he was at the doctor, the examination/ultra sound, diagnosis, and prescription was \$85.



November 29 – Thanksgiving 2014:

This was one of the best Thanksgivings I can remember (except last Thanksgiving when we were in Boise with my sister, Lori, and her family.) It seems all I had to do was move to Mexico to have my family miss me.

I talked to my mom, my in-laws, Joe and Siggie, my sister, Lori and my brother, Chris. I had a message from my sister, Lisa and we talked to Peter's daughter Stacie. The only two we didn't talk to were Cheryl and Patty. I guess I should give them a call. In the morning I spent three hours updating this blog and made a dish to take to the pot luck.

At 1:30 pm, eight of us piled into a cab to go to Marina de Palmera where the Thanksgiving pot luck was held. Over 200 people turned out. They baked 21 turkeys. The food was typical pot luck but very good and lots of it. The leftovers were given to a local orphanage.

November 30 – More Than Sun and Beach:

I picked up a newspaper in Mexico called the Gringo Gazette. Its audience is expatriates, like us, and tourists. It is printed in *Inglés*, of course, and offers news, articles of interest and current events relevant to La Paz, Cabo and the country in general. As I was devouring the current edition of the Gringo Gazette, I noticed a classified ad: "Help Wanted. Writers for the Gringo Gazette." My new dream job!

We were anchored in Balandra. As I finished my yoga practice on the beach, I noticed a bunch of people setting up tents and displays on the opposite shore. Peter took me closer so I could read the signs. Mas Que Sol Y Playa or More than Sun and Beach. I went back to the boat and got a notepad and the camera. I asked Peter to drop me off and I would radio him when I wanted to be picked up. "Si! Senorita!" he said. A Celebration on Balandra

I stood on the edge of the crowd and watched for a while. Then I approached a Caucasian looking man and asked what the party was about. He pointed me toward the organizers. I walked up to the Executive Director of Niparaja and introduced myself as a reporter for the Gringo Gazette. Two hours later I left with the story.

This evening I responded to the Help Wanted Ad. I sent the editor a sample of my work. She wrote back describing the role and compensation package for a reporter. She suggested if I have an idea for a story I should run the idea past her first. If she gives me the green light she will pay me for the piece. I asked if she was interested in the event I had attended at Balandra. She said, “Yes. Make it 800 words.” At last! I have a job.

December 2 – Sailed On:

The wind is picking up early today. There is a lot of work to do to get us ready to move to our next destination. We need a check list. Peter removed the sail covers, stowed the dodger, checked the engine oil and filled out the log book before he handed me a cup of coffee and suggested it was time to get up.

I pulled on some clothes and even before my eyes were fully open I was standing at the helm taking “left”, “right”, “forward” directions while Peter weighed anchor. We were only traveling 7 nautical miles today but we know what happens when the wind picks up around here.

While we motor/sailed toward Puerto Gabriella on the Isle Espiritu Santo, I took advantage of AC power and vacuumed. I also took advantage of ample hot water and cleaned the galley. By the time we dropped anchor everything was in order.

December 4 – Back to Immigration:

This morning we had an e-mail. Our visas have been processed and we need to return to La Paz for finger printing. Turn on the windlass, pull up the anchor, sail back to La Paz. It’s all just a little stressful. But,

We had the most wonderful wind since we’ve been in Mexico. Not too little and not too much and directly out of the perfect direction. We sailed 6.5 knots, twelve miles back to Marina de la Paz. One hour forty five minutes. Awesome.

Unfortunately, that didn’t do a lot to charge the batteries since the engine was idle but I did get some hot water out of the deal and was able to wash the dishes from last night’s spaghetti dinner with Ed, Melinda and the boys.

I am torn between loving the marina and loving the anchorage. At the marina you have all the conveniences. Stores, shopping, showers, internet, people. At the anchorage you have all the inconveniences. Beauty, peace and quiet, nothing to do but relax and play. I’m torn in two.

December 5 – Familiar:

Coming back to La Paz feels so comfortable. Coming back to the familiar is so easy compared to never knowing where you are. We didn’t have a slip in the marina but rather “anchored out”. For 15 pesos, Marina de la Paz provides a lovely dinghy dock just a few steps away from showers, laundry, book exchange, restaurant, taxi cabs, etc.

In the morning, we went with Salvador to immigration. Salvador is an agent we hired to help us with the



paperwork. We waited an hour and a half before they called our number. We were finger printed and five minutes later we left. We were told our visas would be available in five to ten days.

Many of the manuals we reviewed in preparation for this trip said “cruising” is no more than working on your boat in exotic places. Before now, I thought that meant the engine would fail or the mast might fall over. I now know the infinite number of little things that can clamor for attention.

This afternoon I hoisted Peter up to the very tip-top of the mast. About 583 cranks of the winch handle. The wind indicator was stuck. He sprayed some detergent lubricant onto the bearings and got the thing going again and soon the anemometer began to register 14.5 knots apparent wind.

As we prepared to return to town, the dinghy refused to idle. I sat in the cockpit reading while Peter tried a number of things. After changing the spark plugs and fuel filter he suddenly had the idea it might be a stuck float. Well, of course! Why didn't I think of that? He walloped on the carburetor a few times and Wa! La! soon she was purring like a well fed kitten. Plus, with the new spark plugs she starts on the first pull – no choke.

One other mechanical hindrance needed attention today. The air vent on the black water holding tank was clogged. Even when the tank was empty, the burgeoning gas within was claiming capacity. Peter used a CO₂ cartridge – typically used to fill a flat bicycle tire – to blow the line clear. Done.

December 6 – Back to the Beach:

This morning we weighed anchor at 7:00 am. The wind was already howling about 15 knots out of the north. We had only 26 miles to go but wanted to get underway early. We enjoyed a picture perfect sail north to Isle Espiritu Santo.

Ed and Melinda had said they intended to be at Ensenada Grande on Isle Partida. As we sailed along the coast of Isle Espiritu Santo, we noticed sail boats at anchor within the far off bay. I went below to see if the AIS would tell me who they were.

“Honey! Lorien is in Ensenada del Candelero!” Wrong island! Oh, well, change course. Ten minutes later we were anchored near our friends and Jake was anxious to go fishing with Peter.

Unfortunately, Peter had chores to do before he can go fishing. We have to turn off the water maker, fill in the log book, turn off and close up the instruments, put the sail covers on, put up the dodger, lower the dinghy from the davits, and mount the motor on the dinghy. After that, a short nap, then fishing.

December 9 – 100 Days:

Today marks 100 days Peter and I have been on our epic voyage. Seventy three of these we've been anchored out or underway. With no mailing address, no home port, no vehicle registration, I feel like I don't exist. Perhaps my friends, family, and co-workers remember who I was but for all intents and purposes, I may as well have evaporated from the face of the earth.

In the beginning, I suffered severe home sickness, and sometimes still do, but mostly Peter and I pinch ourselves each day in disbelief this is our life. As soon as I wake each



morning, I step out into the cockpit and look around to remind myself of where I am. I drink my coffee and make a plan for the day. If we're in a marina, the days include laundry, groceries, or site seeing. Site seeing is usually at the bottom of the list after the surprise tasks such as a stuck float on the dinghy outboard or the ever present tasks such as rinsing the salt spray off the rigging and metal components and sweeping the sand out of the cockpit. Like at home, there are things that need to be addressed on a daily or weekly basis. Completing these tasks takes time in Mexico because it is warm. Often you have to take a break in the shade or order up a frozen gelato. If we're at anchor, the days include hiking, snorkeling, writing, reading, napping, and yoga on the beach. Add fishing for Peter and pot lucking with friends and the days become very full.

Tonight Ed and Melinda invited us over for a potluck. John and Sue from *Alley Oop* joined us. Everyone brought a dish and along with Ed's fish tacos we had more than we cared to eat and left their boat around 10 pm. We motored the dinghy, under a near full moon back to where *Penelope* waited with her "party lights" on in the cockpit. There was not a trace of wind. The water was still and reflected the moon like a mirror. We counted the anchor lights of seven other vessels quietly at anchor in this bay. We calculated the fact this is the fourth time we've watched the moon go through its lunar cycle.

We chuckled at the audacity of going to dinner at our friend's without shoes and coming home, empty pot luck dishes in the bag, across the water. We pinched ourselves again and exclaimed, "What a life!" It's very hard to believe this life is ours. And the biggest curiosity of all is "What lies ahead?"

December 12 – Checking In:

After a week without cell service or internet, I asked Peter to take me back to Ensenada Gabriele this morning. There we are in site of a Tel Cel tower and using the Banda Macha we get internet on the laptop. I learned, via the internet, the article I wrote for the Gringo Gazette will be on the newsstands on Monday. I also learned our Mexico nautical charts are in at La Paz Yachts and our visas are available for pick up at immigration. We'll return to La Paz, once again, on Sunday or Monday. It's a good thing, too, as we are completely out of everything! No cookies! No chips! No cerveza! Time to head in.

December 14 – Do We Stay or Do We Go:

Our visas are in. The new debit card has arrived. The nautical charts are waiting to be picked up. There is nothing left on the list to keep us in La Paz. I think today we discovered the essence of cruising life. We've been in or around La Paz for nearly a month. I've learned which stores I like to shop at. Peter knows they pick up the LP tanks on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. We have our friends Ed, Melinda, J.D., Jake, John, Sue and many others to call on for good times or trouble.

Our plan, though, had been to be in Barra De Navidad, 500 miles away, for Christmas. To do that means provisioning, making ready the boat, saying so long to new found friends, checking out with the Port Captain and undertaking a 5 to 6 day passage.

Alternatively, we can skip Barra De Navidad, skip the mainland, and stay in La Paz.

Are we real cruisers who want to see and try and do all we can while we can or do we stay where it is easy, safe and comfortable?

Susan and Peter
S/V Penelope
La Paz, Mexico

Jim and Linda Noval, S/V Ranidan

November 24 - Sea of Cortez: Jim and I went to a small town, quieter than Cabo San Lucas – San Jose de los Cabos. On Saturday night in the plaza there was a free International Film Festival!!! A lot of chairs were set up so that everyone could watch movies from Mexico, Canada and other countries. I was impressed at the quality of the films. Children were free to ride scooters and play outside in the dark. How fun for them! We stayed at a very Mexican hotel that was quiet and refreshing – the Tropicana is located an easy trek from the Los Cabos airport so we shall most likely visit there again.



We anchored out for a couple of nights in some beautiful bays (Bahia los Frailes and Bahia los Suenos). The water temp is 85 and the reefs shelter tons of fish, like swimming in an aquarium!! We took a tour on our dingy, snorkeled enchanted by all our finny friends, and had a light evening meal in a little talapa restaurant on the beach.



The rocks glow with sunshine as the night approaches. If you look at the top of the mast you will see a light that every boat is required to have on at night at anchor. Watching them bobbing in the dark is mesmerizing and after so much swimming we sleep well.

We are now in La Paz while a northerly blows down the Sea. Everyone is waiting for the winds to calm down before we go out and find some more perfect places to anchor.

Even in the marina there are loads of fish. They get all excited in the mornings and swim so fast they run into our hull with a slapping sound. There is also a snapping sound that we've been told is either bullet shrimp or plankton. I think I will need to get some sort of guidebook to identify all the sea life. The island just outside of La Paz is Espiritu Santo, a world heritage site which is supposed to have almost 1/3 of the fish species in the world swimming around.



Jim and Linda Noval
S/V Ranidan
La Paz, Mexico

Let's Stay in Touch with our Cruising Members

If you enjoyed the stories from these cruising members of Sauvie Island Yacht Club, please say so. Sometimes the cruisers comment that they feel like they are sending their articles into a black hole, and they never get any feedback. Let's all make an effort to let them know they are appreciated. If you see them, say something. If they are still out cruising, send them an email. If you have questions for them, do ask – it may be the seed for an interesting future report. – Ed.



Photo by Alicia Watkins of S/V Rowena