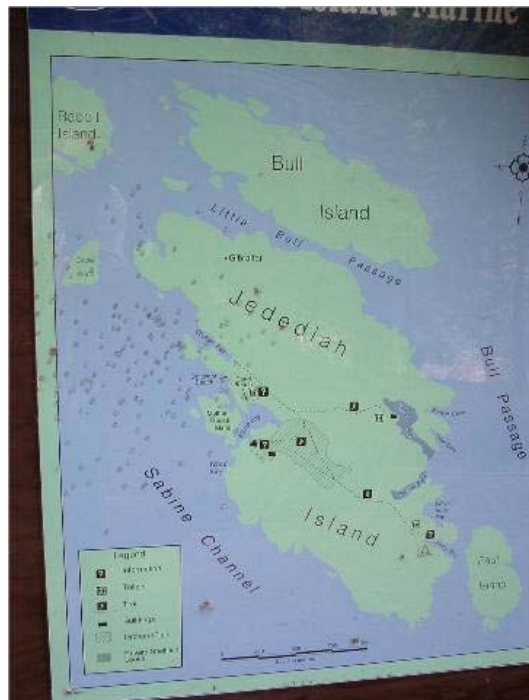


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the wind. Instead we decided to head for Lasqueti Island where we could find a quieter and more interesting anchorage. We had a following sea all the way. Kona did not fare well. Despite her morning shore leave in Coward's Cove, she crapped twice in the stern over her bed. We figured it must be seasickness or nervousness that caused her behavior. The waves got to be at least 4 feet and sometimes 6 feet. It was a good thing that it was a following sea. After talking to Mark we decided to anchor near Jedediah Island since we were told that it was a park with a nice path throughout (only half as we found out but good enough). We looked around and found 10 boats in Deep Bay (just across from Paul Island). Long Bay was too shallow (probably drying at low tide) so we anchored with a shoreline in White Rock Bay (locally known by this name and not named on the chart). After cleaning up Kona's mess, we took a 1 hour walk on Jedediah Island and then set a prawn trap by Paul Island. Had supper and went to bed early.

Friday **Anchorage:** White Rock Bay, **Weather:** Cloudy with some sun
July 2 Jedediah Island

We had a strong bout of rain at around 0600 but managed to get back to sleep. We finally got up at about 900, had a light breakfast and continued our hike/jog around Jedediah Island. Beautiful island with very easy and wide paths. This time we went all the way to Codfish Bay. This was a day of relaxation. We didn't go kayaking mostly because we didn't feel like it but we were also restricted by some wind and waves. Mark and April are still in Ford Cove where they say it is raining (morning report). It should have improved and then they would have gone biking. The question now is whether we should go meet them for a couple of days or should we continue to Campbell River. We'll see tomorrow.



Saturday **Anchorage:** Tribune Bay, Hornby **Weather:** Sunny, South wind late
July 3 Island afternoon and into evening

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We departed at approx 1030 for Tribune Bay. We untied the shoreline and weighed anchor with no problem. Crossing over to Hornby Island was good with the need to tack a little into a 2 ft sea for 10 minutes. Rick set out with Kona in the Catch-up to drop a prawn trap. He met Mark and April in front of Tribune Bay where it was dropped and then returned to the FnC with CA putting about. We then anchored in the bay. Mark and



April brought over a spring salmon caught off Norris Island hours before our arrival. It was promptly cleaned and left on ice. We then went to the beach for a couple of beers and Kona walk. The tide came up quickly and we then decided to return to the ship for salmon dinner. Mark wanted to continue on drinking on the beach but he was out-voted. During our stay on the beach, southerly wind picked up making it hard to use the sun umbrella. The wind also made for an uncomfortable scene on the FnC. We managed to make due. Mark and April joined us later on the FnC, carefully negotiating the waves. We barbecued the salmon and had a lovely meal. By 2200 it was time for a doggy walk. I took Kona and returned to the FnC to find CA ready for bed. We decided that I should go alone to the Bonus Points rather than have Mark and April back. I was back by 0030. Mark was ready to go all night.

Sunday **Anchorage:** Ford Cove, Hornby **Weather:** Sunny
July 4 Island

We were awakened early the next morning by Kona for her morning walk. By 0700 the captain was on the beach with his pet. After clean up and breakfast we went and got April and Mark to retrieve the prawn trap. We motored out slowly in the Catch-Up and enjoyed the morning sun. We first watched Mark pull up his trap. CA had to give him her gloves as his thin line was digging into his hands. No prawns found in his trap. We moved to ours and pulled up 10 prawns, several of them large. After returning to the F&C it was decided to move to Ford Cove as the same winds were predicted again in Tribune Bay and yesterday's pitching had been uncomfortable. The F&C moved over to Ford Cove, anchored and were then picked up by the Bonus Points for some fishing off Norris



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We decided to depart this day for Chatham Pt area but first get water, gas and forgotten supplies in the Discovery Shopping Centre. Rick bought a bunch of lures and gas accessories for the outboard. We moored the boat in front of a huge yacht for \$5 and went shopping. Rick went to Canadian Tire again and got more supplies and more fishing tackle. We departed at about 1430 just before slack at Seymour Narrows. It started to flood afterwards but it never became anything substantial. We had arrived at Nodales Channel where we turned in to explore an alternative anchorage to Otter Cove, in Thurston Bay Marine Park. Upon our arrival, we had difficulty achieving good holding ground in front of Handfield Bay so we took the FnC over to the other end of the harbour to Piddel Bay, Cameleon Harbour, where it was better. There was more wind there but not much and shallow areas near the shore making it difficult for Kona runs. By the time we settled in we had supper and stayed put. Anchored next to us was the “Elizabeth”, a blue pilot house expensive yacht. We had a good sleep that night and awoke to bow ripple.

Friday, July 9 **Anchorage:** Cameleon Harbour (Handfield Bay), Sonora Island **Weather:** Overcast, light rain at 1900

We got up at about 900, had a quick breakfast and set out in the Catch-up. Our plan was to set crab and prawn traps and then for a hike to Florence Lake from Thurston Bay abandoned BC Forest Station. We didn't find the trail nor did we find the BC Forest Station (removed). We set traps but to no avail. The prawn trap was set mistakenly near deep cliffs and as a result we had difficulty bring it up with some snagging. Bits of sponge were found on the crab netting. No prawns. The crab trap was set near a fish farm, no crabs. We moved the prawn trap to the fish farm.



We decided upon our return to move the FnC to Handfield Bay where it would be more serene and better Kona off-loading. Much better anchorage with better shore access and very protected. We spent a lovely, peaceful night with no wind and three other boats nearby.

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Saturday, July 10, **Anchorage:** Safety Boat Cove, **Weather:** Overcast, some sun, Plumper Islands light showers



Next morning we departed for Johnstone Strait with fair weather predicted. We picked up our prawn trap on the way out via Catch-up and FnC. Kona was given an experimental dose of Gravol after consultation with our vet by telephone. Had smooth seas most of the way except near Port Neville where seas built to 2 ft but was not considered a problem. Kona needed off three quarters of the way so the Catch-up ran her to shore while the FnC idled nearby with CA at the helm. We

arrived in Safety Boat cove at approx 1930 (8 hr trip). It was good to be back in the Plumpers again. We put out a shore line, had dinner and relaxed the rest of the evening after a long day at sea.

Cruising News #2

From: Carol-Ann Giroday [mailto:cag_miss@c2eng.com]

Sent: July 11, 2004 11:54 AM

Subject: Cruising News #2 from the Fish'nChips

Hi there,

Welcome aboard new mail recipients. Rick has added his addresses to the list as well. If you want a copy of Cruising News #1 just let us know and we will send it out straight away.

We left Gowlland Harbour, Campbell River and set off for Johnstone Strait. The weather was still not good enough for us to travel up so we spent two nights in Thurston Marine Park just at the beginning of Johnstone Strait. We tried to get prawns and crabs there but were unsuccessful. Beautiful calm water and gorgeous scenery but nothing to eat. Not even an oyster could be found. We found a very protected, quiet anchorage at Handfield Bay. We went looking for a trail that was to take us on a 4 km hike up to a nearby lake but we couldn't find it. The bush was very dense and we were afraid we might get lost if we started poking around in there.

We came up the Johnstone Strait yesterday, Saturday, and pulled into our favorite anchor spot at about 7:00 p.m. We stayed here last year for about 2 weeks because the diving here is great and the whale watching is too. On our way up there were four cruise ships that passed us. Boat loads of people coming back from Alaska. We saw only two porpoises but no whales yet. Johnstone Strait was like glass most of the way. The captain timed the journey perfectly. We are going diving this afternoon and then into Alert Bay around 5:00 p.m. to pick up my son, Peter and his friend. They are interested to know what two old farts do way up here. They are traveling to Port McNeill

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today and catching a ferry to Alert Bay where we will pick them up in the Catch-Up (our little boat). It's about a 20 minute ride over to get them.

The weather has been less than perfect. It was been mostly cloudy and some spitting rain. We have had only a few moments of sunlight passing through. It's supposed to improve over the next few days.

Will keep you posted! Let us know how your summer is going too!

Fish'nChips Out

Sunday, July 11, **Anchorage:** Safety Boat Cove, **Weather:** Overcast, rain mid afternoon and into the evening
Plumper Islands

Woke up to a cloudy day. After breakfast we did our paper work, pictures, e-mail, etc. Planned to dive at Decorated Warbonnet Point at 1400. Took Kona to the kayak camp-site forest we discovered last year. The kayak camp had been dismantled and the place was all ours. Kona had a good romp through the woods. We returned and prepared to dive.

Dive #1 – Decorated Warbonnet Point – Down at 1436 for 87/26 dive

CA had trouble getting down, clearing her ears, and her mask tended to leak throughout the whole dive. On the up side, CA spotted a decorated Warbonnet wedged between two rocks. We finally saw the fish the dive was named after! Current was tricky and at the end of the dive we were hanging on to the rocks and decided to come up.

Equipment was all good except for a few minor adjustments needed for the next dive.

We decided to pick up Peter and Greg in Alert Bay by the FnC due to the lousy weather (constant rain). They arrived on the 1730 ferry and then we returned after about an hour to pick up supplies. We encounter fog near Safety Boat Cove but the Nobeltec charts made it quite easy to come in. We also used radar.



Monday, July 12, **Anchorage:** Safety Boat Cove, **Weather:** Cloud, mostly sun
Plumper Islands

We went fishing late morning but got nothing. Then we set the boys up with kayaks and we went diving.



Dive #2 – Cliff outside Safety Boat Cove – Down at 1452 for 91/35 dive

Dove down through a kelp forest and the visibility was great. Saw a huge Cabezon fish – maybe as large as 30 lbs. We timed the current right this time (go early) and had a lovely dive. At 90 feet we were followed by a school of 100 Sea Perch. Rick broke open three sea urchins and kelp greenlings came along as well to join in the feast. CA rated “9” dive.

Tuesday, July 13, **Anchorage:** Safety Boat Cove, **Weather:** Sunny, thunder showers late afternoon
Plumper Islands

We woke up quite late today – 930. Had a pancake and egg breakfast and then the boys took the kayaks out in the immediate area. Rick tried some jigging for a ½ hour but then realized that it was time to dive.

Dive #3 – Cliff outside Safety Boat Cove (Weynton Passage side) – Down at 1452 for 91/35 dive – Down 14:53 for 104/32 dive

Straight cliff but towards the passage side flattens out and exposed to current. 60-80 ft viz. CA rated this dive a 9. You should tells us why CA

After the dive, we took off whale watching and manage to find the whale watchers and humpbacks. We spend about an hour in rough seas watching the whales and got really close at the end. It started raining with lightning so we decided we had had enough.

Wednesday, July 14	<u>Anchorage:</u> Safety Boat Cove, Plumper Islands	<u>Weather:</u> Sunny,
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The morning was quite foggy. CA made bread early afternoon and then we went whale watching after the fog started to clear, but didn’t see anybody. It was still foggy in places and we had the GPS along just in case. Returned to the FnC and Peter was very interested in VHS radio communications. He tried several times to hail his friend on a fishing boat called Klemtu. He also called for Southern Comfort, (neighbors of cousin Janice) and New Horizons (people we met in Campbell River with a Californian). No one was answering. Afterwards we took Kona to the grassy island and tried to see if there were any whales.

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None spotted. Returned to have a turkey dinner feast. Peter and Greg stayed up to play crib and the captain and his first mate retired.

Thursday, July 15	<u>Anchorage:</u> Alert Bay Public Dock	<u>Weather:</u> Sunny periods, partly cloudy
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Planned to travel to Alert Bay today for CA's interview with the First Nations School in Alert Bay at 1430. After breakfast the fog cleared up and we made our way to Alert Bay. Arrived at public dock at 1345. CA and Rick walked to the school while Greg and Peter headed straight for the nearest pub. After the interview we did some laundry and CA went to get groceries. Rick met the boys for a couple of beers and CA returned the groceries to the FnC and joined the boys for a beer while Rick took Kona and the laundry back to the boat. Returned at 2000 and after several dives into the water by Greg and Peter, (quite a sobering experience) we had a great last meal together. Greg and Peter met some young fishermen on the dock who had just returned with a great catch of halibut. We were given a 100 pound halibut's head and baited out crab trap and placed it in Alert Bay not far out from the dock. Returned and

watched the fisherman fillet his catch to be sold to the local restaurants. He filled a whole cooler of halibut fillets and told us much about the fish, the filleting and the favorite parts – the elders love the cheeks. Later met the captain and his wife who is a Teacher Assistant at the school CA was interviewed for. The young captain (maybe around 25) gave us a generous amount of halibut to take home with us. We returned to the FnC and Greg and Peter played a few hands of crib. CA and Rick retired to read in bed. Peter and Greg are heading home tomorrow on the 645 ferry out of Alert Bay.

Friday, July 16	<u>Anchorage:</u> Port Alexander, Nigei Island	<u>Weather:</u> Sunny partly cloudy
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Woke up at 600 and saw the boys off. Returned to the FnC and went back to bed until 1030. Did some further shopping for the halibut feast planned for tonight. Gassed up and made away for Nigei Island at 1430. Flat calm seas all the way with the wind picking up somewhat near Port Hardy airport. Arrived at anchorage at 2000 and had a feast of fish and chips for dinner with wine,



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of course. We anchored at the head of the bay where there was a pebble beach, lots of drift wood and tall pine forest. There was a marked path on the left hand side marked by a domestic article. Kona and Rick explored a bit but found the path to be not completely marked. It was a quiet night with winds blowing from the NW. Eagles and otters sited. There isn't very good holding ground here. It's probably only pebbles on the bottom but we decided to stay because of the calm weather.

Saturday, July 17	<u>Anchorage:</u> Clam Cove, off Browning Passage, Nigei Island	<u>Weather:</u> Sunny, a few clouds
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We decided to move the boat over to Clam Cove (locally named and sign erected on south entrance. There was no problem finding and navigating Clam Cove. There were no navigational hazards seen. We decided to anchor in a bay on the port side just before the last bay. We immediately prepared for the scheduled dive. We made it in perfect time.

Dive #4 – Seven Tree Island, Browning Passage – Down at 1555 for 114/26 dive



This was a wall dive, straight down to approx 180 plus feet (we didn't go there). It was hard not to dive deep on this one. We anchored on the wind lee side of the island and snorkeled on the inside of the island to the other end and then drifted on the outside until the tide changed. We timed it perfectly. The Boxer Point Nobeltec Current Tables appear to be perfect for dives in Browning Passage.

Visibility was less than we were used to in the Plumper Islands due to the Plankton bloom but we had at least 40 feet or more once at depth.

Sunday, July 18	<u>Anchorage:</u> Clam Cove, off Browning Passage, Nigei Island	<u>Weather:</u> Cloudy, some showers, some sun
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We decided to take the day off from diving (CA aching back) and go fishing instead. We set out at about 1300, caught a few perch and maybe a Sockeye or Coho which we threw back because it was too small. Maybe we shouldn't have since the minimum length is 300

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mm. Saw a large yacht the “Evviva” leaving Christie Passage complete with a helicopter on the back, hottub and an elevator to travel up and down the four decks. Several sea lions surfaced to investigate while we were fishing. Also some white sided porpoises. We visited God’s Pocket on Hurst Island and talked to the women there and a few of the guests. Very small dock but several little postage stamp cabins along a deck with about 15 kayaks stacked up. No scuba diving charter until August but they conduct kayak tours in July instead. Went to Balaklava Island between Lucan Islands after that to take Kona for a walk. There was a nice beach and lunch spot set up there for kayakers and a nice open forest for Kona to roam around in.

Monday, July 19	<u>Anchorage:</u> Clam Cove, off Browning Passage, Nigei Island	<u>Weather:</u> Cloudy, showers and rain throughout the day on and off, sun was rare
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We got up a little earlier this morning (800). A large bald eagle and a juvenile were in the trees close by. The juvenile was busy drying out his wings from the down pour last night. We tried to get the eagles to dive for the perch we caught yesterday but we had no success. They watched what we were doing but did not seem interested. We had breakfast, cleaned up and then went for a hike to Port Alexander. We first went to the left hand dock at the end bay, followed the water line to the creek and then cut over

to the beach. Following the beach we saw markers to the right leading into the forest. It was only a 20 min hike through an easy flat terrain and then we found ourselves at the Port Alexander beach. The trail was well marked. We had lunch sheltered from the rain under the forest canopy.

Upon our return we picked up four more red rock crabs in our trap and spent an hour cleaning all of them. After a 1 hour rest it was time to dive.

Dive #5 – Cliff Dive, Browning Passage – Down at 1702 for 96/36 dive

First point heading south from Clam Cove. A very steep cliff dropping down to over 200 feet. Life was almost as abundant as Seven Tree Island. Over towards the bay the incline was less and there were rock crevices where we found many perch and rock fish.

Returning after our dive to the FnC we stopped to chat with a couple on a sailboat from Blaine, “Sister Moon”. They were on route to Seymour Inlet and we chatted about our travels to date. Told them about the good crabbing here and they said they had just caught

two pinks one right after the other using a buzz bomb right outside the cove entrance. They said they will bait a trap with the heads and see what they get.

After dinner the Captain gave CA “compass” lessons for navigation underwater. She will need further instruction. Retired to bed to read and sleep peacefully in our quiet anchorage.

Fish n Chips Cruisin' News #3

From: "Carol-Ann Giroday" <cag_miss@c2eng.com>

Date: Tue, 20 Jul 2004 18:32:54 -0700

To: <cag_miss@c2eng.com>

Subject: Cruisin' News from the FishnChips #3

Hi there,

We are currently at Nigei Island, north of Port Hardy and can't get any cell reception to send this to you yet!

We had a great time in the Plumper Islands with my son Peter and his friend Greg. We saw only one humpback whale. No killer whales sighted yet. We dove three times in the area and the visibility was great and the life was abundant. We had a few nice days but mostly cloudy with a bit of rain here and there. We went into Alert Bay to take the kids back to catch the ferry home after a week of staying on board. They were excited to see the whale, the seals, the porpoises and kayak around our anchorage. We stayed at the dock in Alert Bay for one night because the kids were leaving on the 6:45 a.m. ferry the next day. We did some grocery shopping and laundry and filled up our water tanks for the next leg of our journey. Peter and Greg got to talking with some young local fishermen on the dock who had just returned with a catch of halibut. They gave us the head of a one hundred pound fella to put in our crab trap for bait! We went over to their fishing boat and watched while they filleted their catch and told us all about their fishing areas and techniques and what are considered the prime cuts. The elders prefer the cheeks they said. They sell their ³food fishing² catch to the local restaurants. They filled one large cooler with halibut fillets. The captain gave us a generous portion to take home for supper.

Before they left that night Peter and Greg took several dives into the water off the docks.

Peter and Rick had a standing joke that Peter wouldn't go in the 46 degree water. After an afternoon in the Alert Bay pub Peter and Greg proved him wrong! A sobering experience for both of them to say the least! We had a farewell feast for dinner and saw them off on Friday morning, July 16th. They were headed back to Port McNeill and a bus ride down the island to Nanaimo.

We continued on that day past Port McNeill towards Port Hardy. The sun was out and the sea was flat calm. We have anchored in a locally named bay, Clam Cove, on Nigei Island, north of Port Hardy. There are hundreds of eagles here. We have had two dives in Browning Passage. There is so much life in this current swept pass that there is life on top of life!! So much to see that you almost can't see it. We went fishing one day and caught a small salmon but we turned it back. We caught another one that was bigger but the ³dirty bounder² went under the boat and got himself free. We then caught three perch, two quite small (perfect for crab bait) and a larger one that we will eat. That day we saw a huge

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butterscotch colored sea lion swimming around our boat to get a look at what we were up too. We heard him puffing out air through his nostrils before we actually saw him. Several white-sided porpoises were in the area as well. A huge yacht went by complete with helicopter and hot-tub on board. They also had an elevator to negotiate getting up and down the four decks. We have put out our crab trap next to our boat and have caught eight red rock crabs. Tonight for dinner we are planning to have barbequed steak ³Neptune?!

There are lots of large Pacific mussels around here as well. The shells are about five inches long. I haven't seen that species in the water before now. I want to eat them but I can't get out on my cell phone to ask Fisheries if the area is safe or not! One of the locals I asked said that Fisheries might have a recording that says they can't be eaten at this time but in point of fact it's because they haven't been around the area yet to check the PSP levels. I haven't even eaten a single oyster on this whole trip!!

After our day of fishing we tried to interest the resident eagles in our small perch but when we threw them the fish they weren't at all interested in eating them. We were trying to get some pictures of them swooping down and grabbing them with their claws. A young eagle and a mature one were sitting in the trees near the boat. The young one had his wings draped over the tree branches drying out his wings after a down pour of rain during the night. The weather hasn't been great. Mostly cloudy and rainy with sunlight making its way out for only short periods each day, if that.

We spoke to some local people in the area and were told of a hike through from our anchorage to another one across the island. We found the trail and hiked for twenty minutes through a beautiful forest to a bay on the other side. On our way we found a squatters camp complete with outdoor hot-tub. There was an old logging road and logging equipment in the area. The hike was well marked and Kona got a chance to really sniff about and stretch her legs.

Today we are moving to another anchorage between Kent Island and Staples Island in the Walker Island Group. We are in the same area (in the middle of the Queen Charlotte Strait) but closer to some of the dive spots we are interested in. One, off Barry Islet, which is supposed to be a great dive and soon to be a protected sanctuary. Before our water runs out on board we will head back to Port Hardy, fuel up, buy some groceries, fill our water tanks and head off again further north to Haikai Pass just next door to the beginning of the Inside Passage. When we get to Port Hardy we will have cell phone reception again and I will e-mail this news to you. Rick says that after Port Hardy it is doubtful we will get any cell phone reception further north.

Take care all and enjoy your summer. Your news is always welcome!

Fish'n Chips OUT!

P.S. While crossing !!Queen Charlotte Strait to our new anchorage we checked out cells and we have enough digital signal to send this today, Hoorah

Tuesday, July 20	<u>Anchorage:</u> Kent Island	<u>Weather:</u> Cloudy, showers and rain throughout the day on and off, sun at the end of the day
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Woke up to the sound of eagles calling in our bay. The place is full of eagles!! Had breakfast and CA made muffins. After breakfast, tank filling and dish washing, made preparations to move to a new anchorage. Crab trap today yielded five crabs, one a Dungeness female. All were thrown back except one large red rock male. He is the largest

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we have caught in the cove to date. Set off for Kent Island with calm sea. Found anchorage between Kent Island and Staple Island with two sailboats and on pilot house – all from Canada which is unusual. While crossing over we had full digital signal so we sent off cruising news #3 and made a phone call to David to see how things were going on the mainland. Settled in to our spot and C.A. barbequed steaks topped with crab (Steak Neptune). A fine feast. Read after dinner and retired.

Wednesday, July 21	<u>Anchorage:</u> Kent Island	<u>Weather:</u> Sunny
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Woke up at 930. C.A. made breakfast while Captain took Kona to shore. On his return he stopped to chat with Don and Yetta from Chemanas on their boat, Annie Mac. They have been cruising since May and don't intend to be back home until October – the same idea we have for our retirement. After breakfast we see if for Barry Islet to dive at 1145 slack.

Dive #6 – Cliff Dive, Barry Islet – Down at 1208 for 101/30



It was tricky to tie up the Catch-Up as the waves were washing up and there were very few places to attach the rope before pulling away and dropping the anchor. We got on the lee side of the island and did manage to find a cranny to stuff the ball of our rope into. Eagles were soaring over the island and enjoying the wind currents so we took several pictures of them before going down. We saw two large Puget Sound King Crabs – the largest CA

has seen to date. Rick found the body of a dead one as we were returning and brought the carapace up with us. The dive was very similar to what we had seen in Browning Passage. There was more current than we expected so we turned around and let it push us back to the Catch-Up.

We returned from the dive in a choppy sea but took it easy and enjoyed the swells. Stopped to show Don and Yetta from “Annie Mac” the Puget Sound King Crab carapace shell we found dead on the dive. They hadn't seen such a crab before. Had lunch, showered and relaxed in the much welcomed sunshine. First all blue sky day since we've been up north. C.A. tried repeatedly to get out some e-mail but only one bar of digital in the sheltered anchorage and that isn't enough.

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Thursday, July 22	<u>Anchorage:</u> Kent Island	<u>Weather:</u> Fog in the morning and then fog patches in the afternoon with sun
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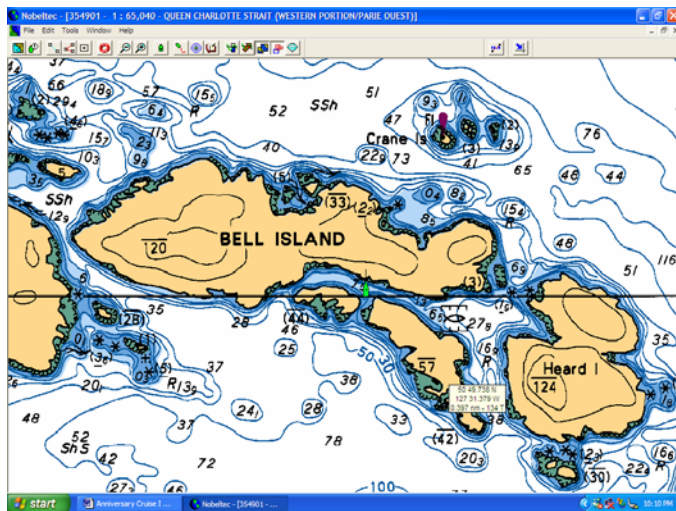
When we awoke today, we found all of our neighbours to be gone. It's a mystery to us why they all left early and together – in the fog. There was the Japanese manufactured 50 ft trawler made of wood with a super paint job, the sailboat with an old man and younger women and people we talked to on the “Annie Mac”, all gone. Were they perhaps beating the fog or perhaps a touch of “flocking”? But later in the day a big 50 ft Canoe Cove type and a fishing boat convert arrived. We decided to dive nearby and not chance getting lost in fog. We almost went fishing instead but we decided to do both. We are glad we did because later the fishing wasn't that great. Rick lost the cannonball due to a deficient hook on the down rigger but used his tank weight instead. It worked great but it didn't help us with our fishing luck.

Dive #7 – Island NE tip of Staples Island NE side – Down at 1226 for 109/26

Visibility was not good on this dive but acceptable to make it a decent dive. The surface was very calm and serene. We timed it just right for current. We expecting much current but there was enough to warrant planning for it which we did. Rick brought us right back to the “Catch-Up's” anchor line. CA found a sea urchin shell completely intact. Life was not as teeming as expected but nevertheless a decent dive. CA breathed more air than usual due to mask sealing problems.

Friday, July 23	<u>Anchorage:</u> Bell Island	<u>Weather:</u> Fog in the morning, clear and sunny in the afternoon at new anchorage.
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We took are time leaving but when we were ready, the fog was still with us. Rick decided to go anyway. Fog continued with us all the way to Bell Island and then it cleared up near Heard Island on our approach to the southern side of Bell Island. There was also a 3 foot swell and if you got it on your side then the boat would start rocking. The nobeltec navigation software made the trip very stress free. Our visibility was near zero most of the way. We are anchored in a passage way (don't forget your anchor light for this spot) right beside a cute shell beach. Cell phone reception is good and we are now all caught up



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with email and voice messages. Rick talked to Andrew and Janet on the Miatla and through broken communication and two phone calls, we have determined that they are at Cabbage Island heading for Victoria and then they hope to be in the Port Hardy area by August 8. This seems to be an aggressive travel schedule but on the Miatla life is different where the crew is accustomed to long voyages.

Our anchor spot so far is ok, with the odd boat wave sneaking through a opening next to us (see map). Great beach and sunshine.

Saturday, July 24	<u>Anchorage:</u> Bell Island	<u>Weather:</u> Overcast in the morning, clear and sunny in the afternoon
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We decided to go kayaking this day. We didn't feel like diving. In both cases the NW wind might present a problem. We decided on kayaking north to Harlequin Bay on Hurst Island. After an omelet breakfast, a phone call from Mark informing us of their return home and a Kona shore leave quickie we set off in our Kayaks into the wind. We managed to round Bell Island

and make the crossing over to Harlequin Bay without incident. The crossing did have waves that did breach the kayaks at times but nothing alarming. Inside the bay we found a bay sheltered from the wind and there we had lunch. There was a moss lawn and interior forest shell perfect for campers similar to the beach next to the anchored FnC back at Bell Island. There was no one in Harlequin Bay – could it be because of the reef infested entrance?

Back at the FnC, we had a spicy chicken stir fry and CA made bread to tied us over until Port Hardy. Kona remains the best of dogs and has been no problem throughout the trip.

Sunday, July 25	<u>Anchorage:</u> Port Hardy, Gov't Fisheries Dock	<u>Weather:</u> Sunny all day, windy 20-25 kt NW winds
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Anniversary Cruise I – July/Aug 2004



We weren't quite sure what to do today, kayaking in the other direction or scuba diving. We decided instead to lie on the beach for a while and then take off for Port Hardy. With a following sea it shouldn't be too bad. We did in fact have 4 footers after a 90 min beach stay. The protection of Hardy Bay was welcomed. We went directly to the sheltered dock area and found it to be quite full. Quarter Deck Marina was full and the commercial

fishing dock as well. We landed up tying to a packer for an hour while we investigated. Our next door commercial fisher told us that there was an opening next day and that boats would be leaving tonight and in the morning. On our investigative tour we found an excellent empty spot, so we returned immediately to the FnC and relocated the boat there. Later a native scuba diver/warfinger and young woman dropped by and collected 22.5 from us for the night. It's good to be tied up and away from the wind. The dock has 20 A outlets; luckily we had our conversion cord with us.

Monday, July 26	<u>Anchorage:</u> Port Hardy, Gov't Fisheries Dock	<u>Weather:</u> Sunny all day, windy 20-25 kt NW winds
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We shopped for groceries today. CA broke down and had to buy oysters. We took Catch-up over to the CCG public dock and loaded the groceries their and then returned to FnC. Winds don't seem to give up and the weather forecast shows no end to it. When we got back we did our laundry at the Quarter Deck Marina. Rick also got gas for the generator, compressor and outboard. After that we could leave but there were concerns about the weather. We entertained the option to take the boat out of the water – services provided by Quarterdeck, and kill some time waiting for better weather but they were full. Then we decided that we should leave early morning when the winds were typically calm.

Fish'N Chips Cruising News #5

From: Carol-Ann Giroday [mailto:cag_miss@c2eng.com]

Subject: Fish'N Chips Cruising News #5

Hi there,

We are in Port Hardy at the government dock preparing to leave tomorrow morning early. The weather has been beautiful and sunny but the wind has been blowing gale force – stink-a-roo – so we came in here to get ready for the next leg of our journey. We spent today getting gas, groceries and doing laundry.

Since our last “news” we left Kent Island and crossed over to Bell Island – part of the “God’s Pocket” Marine Park. We found a lovely anchorage between Bell Island and two other small islands. Kind of like a bowling alley of water between two land masses. There was a huge fish farm nearby as well. As we entered into the area we passed the fish farm and they were feeding the fish. They were jumping up all over the place but the nets over the ponds not only keep the fish in but the eagles and gulls out as well.

Very close to our anchor spot was a beautiful shell beach. Above the beach was a moss covered area that was quite expansive and then on its edge a forest much like you would see in Stanley Park. Very open and easy to walk through. We followed a path that was marked with pink surveyor tape that led around a short distance to another nearby look-out. Kona loved the opportunity to run and stretch out. We spent the remainder of our day sitting on the beach admiring the view through the two small islands looking west toward Vancouver Island.

The next morning we decided to try kayaking around Bell Island and into Harlequin Bay, on the east side of Hurst Island. We knew the wind would hit us hard as we made our way around the tip of Bell Island and headed east toward Harlequin Bay. We stayed close to shore and as we approached the protection of Harlequin Bay we were looking out on the Queen Charlotte Strait and a four foot sea of Northwest winds blowing at us. There was a reef of rocks surrounding the area so we were somewhat protected. A cruise ship happened to be going by as we rounded the corner which was nice to look at as we paddled along. At one point we were exposed to the waves without help from any natural breakwaters and it was a little tense for me. One wave swished right over my kayak skirt but that was the only real tense moment. I had to change the direction I was heading and instead of taking the waves on my side I had to turn and surf them more at a forty-five degree angle. It was just a short little bit before we were once again behind a land mass and paddled into a very peaceful and calm bay. We climbed out and had lunch on a beach similar to the one back at our anchorage, shell and sand. Two seals came into the area to check us out. I stretched out in the moss to have a languishing moment in the sun. The paddle back was easy as the wind was at our backs and we surfed easily back to our anchorage only having to steer the kayaks with little “paddle power” needed.

The next day the wind promised to continue to blow hard so we had a leisurely breakfast, spent some time reading on our shell beach and then set off for Port Hardy with the wind at our back, luckily. As you can see from the picture attached, it would have been unpleasant to be heading north into those babies. It was much more comfortable to have four foot waves pushing us all the way into Port Hardy.

Port Hardy is a very “fishing vessel” oriented place. We were one of the only recreational vessels at the government dock. The dock was expansive and the fishermen were very friendly. They told us they had only one area that they were allowed to fish at this time and regardless of the windy weather conditions they had to go and catch some fish! Several boats pulled out in the middle of the night in the hopes of finding the seas calmer than during the day. The harbour master came around to collect our moorage and he was a diver as well. He told us of several nice dives in the area and also about the boat tied next to us that was a commercial boat for catching sea-urchins (Japan loves ‘em) and geo-duck (gooey-duck) clams. Those guys dive really deep!!

If you have Word you can open the last attachment listed above and see the route we have taken since we came into the Queen Charlotte Strait area. As you can see there are several island groupings that each have their own charm. You can’t see the Barry Islet that we dove off of when we first came over here. It was further southeast and in the middle of nowhere as I said.

Anniversary Cruise I – July/Aug 2004

Tomorrow we plan to head back to Clam Cove which is getting us closer to our next destination, Cape Caution. The wind is still too much for us to make that trip so we will just make a small overture in that direction. We plan to go to Nakwakto Rapids before going around Cape Caution. At Nakwakto Rapids there is a small island in the middle of the inlet, Turret Rock, where the water rushes by at 14 to 16 knots (almost 14-16 miles per hour). The locals call the rock, Tremble Island, because they say if you're on the rock when the water is going by it actually rumbles because of the force of the water. Rick loves to play in the fast water in the "Catch-Up", our tender, and he plans to put me off on the island in the back-eddy part, (where the water is still) and I'll feel the water rushing by and take pictures of the incredible power of the water as it rushes around. "We'll see!!", I say. The water goes by at one of the highest rates in the world – so of course we can't miss this!!! The duration of the slack tide (when the water is neither coming or going) is six minutes. Pretty quick tide change I'd say!

After that adventure we will make our way around Cape Caution. Now we no longer will have the protection of Vancouver Island so we will be looking for a very calm wind before venturing out. There is a stretch of water that we have to negotiate before we are once again behind islands that protects us from the open ocean – Calvert Island. Once we get there we are only a hop away from Hakai Pass and all its glory. There is a beautiful beach that faces the west coast – totally sand and shell from the ocean pounding in without obstacle. There are several floating fish resorts as well as resorts tucked into small protected bays and inlets in the area. The fishing is superb in this part of the world and so is the diving.

After fishing with our friends Mark and April and talking with my cousins Janice and Sid, we are thinking we can catch fish. Today in the marina at Port Hardy I bought a book written by Charlie White. He caught a 56 pound Chinook in Rivers Inlet and had it on his underwater camera so he was featured on television and in all the newspapers and is considered an expert. The book is easy to read, has humorous illustrations and tells us how to catch a damn fish!! We're all set to go! Once we get out of here the cell phone reception is about over so we will be out of range for communication. We will take lots of pictures and as soon as we're able to we will let you know how we are doing. Friends from our marina in Mission, Andrew, Janet and their kids, are planning to meet up with us on their sailboat the "Miatla II" and one of my cousin's neighbors is going to be in the area on his boat "Southern Comfort". We'll be in touch with them on our VHF radio. My Captain says we have to leave early tomorrow morning and it is 2350 now so I have to push off to sleep. Take care all and keep in touch.

Fish'N Chips OUT.

Anniversary Cruise I – July/Aug 2004

Tuesday, July 27	<u>Anchorage:</u> Clam Cove (at the end), Nigei Island	<u>Weather:</u> Overcast, windy 20-25 kt NW winds
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Rick was up at 530 but CA said it was too early. She hadn't got much sleep because of an upset stomach (too much rib dinner and wine). We continued to doze. CA got up to go to the head at 630 but Rick never did rise thinking CA wasn't too interested in getting up early and leaving. We slept till 930 by then it was still calm so Rick bought into CA's idea to leave. CA thought it was still early in the day and that the wind wouldn't build until mid or late afternoon. So we left at 1030 for a

return to Calm Cove where we knew it would be very protected. There was at worst only 3 footers and the FnC handled them well without upsetting her passengers, well except for panting Kona who started whining several times during the short trip. Rick calmed her by visiting her and petting her every ½ hour or so. As soon as we arrived we noted that the sailboat Sister Moon was back in the cove and an American yacht soon appeared "Chesapeake" and anchored beside us. Rick talked to the captain and his wife on the way back from a Kona shore leave. The man said that they had arrived for the Broughton Island group and reported that "There was no one there- those resorts are going to go broke!"

Wednesday, July 28	<u>Anchorage:</u> Clam Cove (at the end), Nigei Island	<u>Weather:</u> Sunny, windy 20-25 kt NW winds
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Both of us had a good night's sleep. We woke up at 900, had a leisurely breakfast, a quick Kona shore outing and then it was time to dive. We decide to dive the rocks off Balaklava Island just south of Seven Tree Island. Everything was going fine but when we were completely suited and ready to put on our fins we were stopped in our tracks. No fins!! We rushed back to get them but we decided on our way that it would be prudent to abort the dive and not chance missing the slack. We had a lunch break and then went fishing. We caught a pink which gave a good fight. We estimated it to be three pounds. After fishing we visited a beach and pasture on Balaklava Island. We had seen kayakers on this beach during our aborted dive. It was a good spot for Kona to run and we ventured up a switchback path to get a good view of the bay. The fog was approaching so we decided to leave. Fog is surrounding us now as we have supper but has stayed away. Cape Caution, Allison Harbour, Skull Cove, and Miles Inlet have been in fog all day according to conversations on the VHF.

Anniversary Cruise I – July/Aug 2004

Thursday, July 29	Anchorage: Clam Cove (at the end), Nigei Island	Weather: Sunny late afternoon, windy 20-25 kt NW winds early easing late afternoon
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Rick took Kona for a good walk ashore first thing in the morning. They traveled a good distance up the logging road. Kona thought that was a great hike. Back at the FnC, it was about this time that the Chesapeake weighed anchor and moved around to say goodbye from his bow. Rick took pictures of them and asked for their email to send the pictures. I received their boat card by Katie on the bow. David and Katie Pethia are their names. French toast was had for breakfast. After a bit of fussing and tinkering Rick took Kona for another walk. This time they followed the water line all the way to its end and then returned. By the time they returned it was time to dive. This time we were careful not to forget anything. This time we brought along the VHF radio for emergencies. As we were getting ready to go diving four boats entered the cove together. They had started out in Victoria and gone along the west coast and were now returning south. Anderson Cove, Ocean Point, Kingee were three of the names of the boats that came in. They said the weather wasn't great where they had been either.

Dive #8 - Rocks off Balaklava Island just south of Seven Tree Island Down at 1431 for 95/34

We were on site quickly and secured lines as before. We were pleased to see that the visibility was the same from the surface as yesterday. It turned out to be a good dive with improved visibility at 60 feet. We had to swim out and then sink down to a small cliff which became shallower the further south we went. The current was just beginning to turn when we arrived so we swan against a slight current and returned with a stronger current. We came up at the same spot but decided to be sure and surfaced early and snorkel over a frontal reef. CA gauged the dive as 8. Rick found and retrieved the biggest urchin shell yet. CA found a sculpin and Rick showed her how docile they are by picking it up and



only moved away after several seconds of being held. Rick found a large Puget Sound King Crab and with handling demonstrated that its claws were very harmless. They were clamped shut rather than open and threatening to pinch like you see when catching crabs in a trap. It's great to be back diving.

Immediately following our dive we set out fishing. We decided to try the North end of Nigei.

Anniversary Cruise I – July/Aug 2004

After about 45 minutes trying 3 lures at various depths, we caught a 17 lb Coho at the surface (no weight) with the Apex lure. After it was landed in the net the hook fell out. We decided to not continue fishing so we made our way back to the boat, arriving by 1900 where upon we got to work cleaning fish, setting crab traps with new bait, fixing weight belt, fixing Rick's BCD while CA prepared and cooked both Salmon, today's and yesterday's pink on the barbecue. So far we have trapped 3 rock crab and one Dungeness.

A wonderful dinner was had by all. Kona even had her fill. Hopefully Kona will be regular tomorrow.

Weather continues to blow from the north and fog is predicted to worsen. We discussed today that maybe Hakai Pass may not happen this year. We are examining the alternative destination of the Broughton Archipelago. There are so many destinations there that we never made last year. Judging by the weather forecast tonight, it looks like we will be heading there. But we must make sure we have had our fill of diving in Browning Passage first.

Friday, July 30	<u>Anchorage:</u> Clam Cove (at the end), Nigei Island	<u>Weather:</u> Sunny with a few clouds, wind gusting
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Woke up at 900 and the four boats that pulled in yesterday were pulling out and making their way south. We are alone in Clam Cove. The weather is the same and the wind is predicted to really blow up this afternoon. We listened on the VHF to the same boats further up north, "Capricorn" anchored in Miles Inlet and "Reel Angler" (anchored in Skull Cove). Capricorn said several boats had left this morning, went out about five miles and came back in again. They have been waiting for the weather to go around Cape Caution for going on eight days. We will dive again today. Rick filled tanks, changed the compressor filter and the oil in the generator. CA made a picnic of salmon sandwiches to take on a hike to Port Alexander after the dive late this afternoon.

Dive #9 – Browning Passage south wall Nigei Island south of Seven Tree Island Down at 1451 for 115/26

First attempted to tie up on a rock face but the waves and depth (100 feet plus) proved to be too difficult and we couldn't get a secure hold for the Catch-Up to be kept off the rocks.. Moved a bit further south and tucked in behind a small bay, tied to a tree in about 25 feet of water and let the anchor fall over the cliff face. Went down to 115 feet and the visibility was great and surprisingly very bright. Terrain changed from a wall covered with sea anemones to mossy covered rock to a rocky (wolf eel territory) as we went further into the bay. We turned around when the ebbing current started to push us gentle back towards the boat. Saw another large Puget Sound King Crab and even a very attractive rat fish. Many small sea perch followed us along as well as sightings of many rockfish. As we were coming back we saw the anchor line and tried to swim back against the current so we could continue to dive in the shallower water as we both had air left. The current was too strong and we had to come up straight away or we would have gone past the boat and not been able to swim against the current back to it. Because of the time spent relocating to a

new dive spot we had entered the water 15 minutes later than we had planned leaving us to deal with a strong current at the end of the dive.

The wind had picked up since we left and we took it easy back to our anchorage. The swells were up to eight feet high as we rounded the corner out of Browning Passage and headed back to Clam Cove. Luckily it wasn't a long journey in those conditions. We returned safely to the FnC, got changed, grabbed the picnic basket and headed off with Kona for our hike to Port Alexander. When we got there we found there were 3 boats, 2 miniature cruise ships and one 28 footer. We sat on the beach and ate our lunch and then walked back. As we were relaxing before dinner the "squatters" appeared in their aluminum commercial type boat. Four people on board, two young men, a young woman and an old timer. Looks to be a family of father, sons and daughter. They unpacked several coolers, duffel bags, and a propane tank. It appears they are staying at their "summer camp" for a few days.

Fish'N Chips Cruising News #6

From: Carol-Ann Giroday [mailto:cag_miss@c2eng.com]

Sent: July 31, 2004 1:00 PM

To: wendy Swanson (wendle54@hotmail.com); Andy Weimar (weimar@canada.com); Barb Hudson; barb Kalashnikov (bkalashnikov@wgcinternational.com); beatty@rapidnet.net; Brenda and Dave; Carol Holdal (gopaddle@hotmail.com); Catherine Faire (faircat@shaw.ca); Christine (hoofit@yahoo.com); Dale Taylor (scotttaylor@telus.net); Debbie Clyne ; Denise Buckoll (dbuckoll@richmond.sd38.bc.ca); Dianne Smith (yukon_ladydi@hotmail.com); Gale LeBlanc; Janet Gunson (missharb@telus.net); Janice Sigfusson (jsigfusson@necunified.com); Jay and Leland; Joan Alec (blkswn@telus.net); Julie Tatla (tatla@telus.net); L Alexander (l.alexander@shaw.ca); Larry LeBlanc; Louise at Work; Margot Sutcliffe (margot@uniserve.com); Mark Weir (weir@telus.net); Mary Gillanders (marvelus@telus.net); Michelle Norman (winekitzmission@aol.com); Mike O'Donnell (micodonnell@telus.net); msginger@hotmail.com; Nadean Smith (nadeans@hotmail.com); Nikki (knik@shaw.ca); Peter Barton (pandbbarton@shaw.ca); Peter Carlson (petercarlson138@hotmail.com); Rick Mulholland (libearywolf@shaw.ca); Roberta; Sharon Nelson (saltee150@telus.net); Simona; Stephen O'Donnell (stephen.o'donnell@telus.com); Steve and Dawn; Sue Truman (struman@hotmail.com); Tony and Cathy; Wendy O'Donnell

Subject: Fish'N Chips Cruising News #6

Hi all,

Since we left Port Hardy the sun has been shining brightly and the wind has been blowin' hard and fog rolls in every morning and evening!! Where we are the fog hasn't bothered us but it is along the mainland coastline and holding up travel for boaters who have crossed over already. All boaters in our area and further north of us have been waiting in cozy safe anchorages to make the trip around Cape Caution and into River's Inlet and Hakai Pass where the fishing is spectacular. As we listen to the radio in the morning, several boaters chat back and forth about what they think they will do and how bored they are getting of the same spot for the past week. The weather just isn't changing. One morning several boaters set out to go for it and after venturing out about five miles they took a look at the large swells and headed back to their anchorages.

We went from Port Hardy back to Browning Passage and our anchorage in Clam Cove. While we have been waiting for good weather we have gone diving each day in Browning Passage. The currents are tricky but my captain has timed the dives well and they have all been fantastic. The water is clear and the visibility is great. Yesterday we messed around for about 15 minutes finding a good spot to tie the Catch-Up off to because it was a cliff we were diving on and it was really

deep. The waves and wind were pushing us into the rock face so we had to relocate a little further down the passage and we should have been in the water about fifteen minutes earlier than we were. Towards the end of the dive the current was pushing us along really good and we saw our anchor line and now the boat was just above us now. We tried to swim back upstream but the current was really pushing us making it impossible to go against it. We had to come up before it pushed us past our boat and we wouldn't be able to swim back to get in it! We had enough air to snoop around for probably fifteen more minutes. All good experience for me. When we surfaced my captain told me to hang on to the anchor line and not let go because the current would have happily taken me along with it and he would have had to come and pick me up. We climbed back into the boat and all was well. Good experience for me! While we were down the wind had picked up as predicted and the waves were coming into Browning Passage pretty good. We just took our time and kept the bow up. When we rounded the turn out of Browning Passage and into Queen Charlotte Strait the swells were about eight feet high. The Catch-up takes them well and we were fine. I'm glad though that we were only about two city blocks from home. We didn't have to stay out in that sea for too long.

We go fishing in the late afternoons and we have caught several small pinks and some sea perch to bait our crab trap. But, to our great delight, after reading up in our "instruction manual" of fishing and talking to some of the folks we have met in our anchorage, we managed to catch a 17 pound Coho. You would be very proud of us Janice, Sid, Mark and April – maybe envious too. Hoorah for Rick. He caught it but I am taking fifty percent responsibility for the catch because I was driving the Catch-Up and I knew where the fish were! We weren't using our down-rigger. We had a spoon on, no weight and we were trolling in about 70 feet of water with the line out behind us. Great fun fishing is. The captain, who likes to say he got the fishing gear for me, had a very excited and toothy grin on his face as he was reeling in the "big fella"! I manned the net perfectly (Mark, I get an "A" for net handling) and as soon as the fish was in the net the hook came free on its own. As you can see from the pictures we are very proud of our fish and we cleaned her, filleted her, barbecued her and ate her. Many leftovers. I was thinking of all of you and how nice it would be to have you for dinner. Now we can't fish for a while because we can't eat the catch that fast. The head and tail then baited our crab trap and we caught, over several days, four rock crabs and one Dungeness. Now we have to eat that too. It's wonderful when the sea provides!!

We have decided not to go any further north. The weather isn't cooperating and we want to move on to more adventures. We will go there next year. We had a window of opportunity this morning to push off before the wind picks up again this afternoon. We are heading south with a following sea and plan to go to the Broughton Archipelago Marine Park. It's a maze of islands and islets on the edge of Queen Charlotte Strait. It's across from where we were anchored in the Plumber Islands at the beginning of our trip. Peter and Greg, it would be the islands we saw across from where we spotted the humpback whale. We plan to head into the inlets there and do some prawn trapping and kayaking. We haven't been able to do much of that around here because the currents are too fast and the weather has been too crazy. Kayaking in four foot waves crashing against the rocks around the rim of the islands doesn't appeal to us. On the inside of the islands in the Broughton area the water will be quieter and the prawns will be big. I have missed eating prawns and I hope to find some oysters. I did finally get through to fisheries and I wasn't allowed to eat the large mussels in the area due to the plankton bloom with all the sunshine we've been getting. Luckily it didn't badly affect the visibility in the water where we were diving. I got so desperate for oysters that I bought some in Port Hardy that were from Fanny Bay in Courtenay. They were delicious. They made a delightful appetizer before our Coho supper.

I'll sign off now and if I can get cell reception once we get to our next destination I will be in touch. We are in the open in Queen Charlotte Strait now, across from Port Hardy as the crow flies so I am able to get a few bars of digital reception to send this out. Take care all and keep in touch. It's always good to hear from you.

Fish'nChips OUT

Anniversary Cruise I – July/Aug 2004

Saturday, July 31	<u>Anchorage:</u> Dickson Island, unnamed east bay.	<u>Weather:</u> Sunny with a few clouds, wind gusting
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This morning we decided to take off south. Rick was out by the entrance and saw only swells. The wind was not up yet. We figured that the wind would pick up to late afternoon and it would still be okay since it would be a following sea. Once at sea CA immediately started her email broadcast report. She spent about an hour and half doing this and answering other email as the signal got stronger. Then she talked on the phone while driving on the sun bridge. We later brought all the equipment up and continued driving from there. During her phone calls she learned that Dave had purchased a motorcycle. After several phone calls things were sorted out in that regard.

We approached Numas Island and determined the anchorage there to be not sufficient for overnight. Most of the bay is deep and a slight shift in the wind could spell disaster if the holding ground was poor. We couldn't just dive right away and leave because we didn't have the tanks filled yet. We didn't look at the possible anchorages on the other side of the island.

We headed on towards Polkinghorne Island near Wells Passage to determine whether it would be a suitable anchorage. The NW wind was blowing through its narrow passage ways. We decided to go in deeper, meander around rocks and islands to the backside of Dickson Island. There we found one other yacht "No Returns". This anchorage is deep 40-60 ft but good mud holding ground. Later we were joined by a crab boat "BC Raider" who left early the next morning. We want to dive off the small islands at the entrance to Wells Passage. That evening we went for a rib ride through the narrows leading to Carter Passage.

Sunday, August 1	<u>Anchorage:</u> Dickson Island, unnamed east bay.	<u>Weather:</u> Sunny with a few clouds, wind gusting
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After morning routines we decided to go fishing around Dickinson Island toward the entrance to Wells Passage and look over our dive spot for the day at the same time. We trolled along with a spoon and a 10 lb. weight and CA caught three small perch that will go well in our crab trap. As we moved closer to the entrance to Wells Passage by the light there were several other boats fishing the area as well. There was much current in the area as

the flood was on. Soon many sea birds gave the cue that herring was present by their swarming and cawing and quick beak-dips into the water where they came away with a small herring in their mouths. We fished around and near their area but got nothing but a few small strikes. We stayed out longer than we should have and had to hurry back to the boat to get ready for the 1500 slack.

Dive #10 – Ommaney Island - Down at 1507 for 79/33

When we arrived on site the area we had earlier staked out was being hit by wind and waves so we had to make other plans. We went to the tip of the island to get out of the waves but it meant we had to go in a different direction to have the ebbing current in mind for our return to the boat. We got into the water seven minutes late and already the current was coming around both sides of the island. We stayed down anyway and stayed in a small valley between two rocks. There wasn't much area that we could travel along without hitting current so we stayed in this small area and watched the life. The bottom was covered in crushed shells and there were several sculpins hiding in the shells. Small anemones clung to the overhanging wall. The visibility was only about fifteen feet. Many small to medium sized hermit crabs as well. Many large rock scallops as well. It was a nice dive in that we stayed in one small area and keenly observed all the life that was right under our noses. As we came back up along the wall we were swimming against the current and as we rounded the corner we found current on it as well. As we went up we were being pushed along but managed to hang onto kelp and grab the anchor line before being swept away. Once again the captain had the position perfectly figured out and we climbed back into the Catch-Up without incident. We surfaced at 1538 and slack was at 1500 so we had over-stayed our welcome but managed to salvage a good dive anyway. We had entered the water later than we had planned leaving us to deal with a strong current at the end of the dive.

Monday, August 2	<u>Anchorage:</u> Turnbull Cove	<u>Weather:</u> Sunny, with increasing overcast and then rain in the evening.
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After cleaning the back deck and dishes and a shower for CA we were ready to depart for our planned destination of “Turnbull Cove”. It was like Disneyland Playland in these protected waters – “flat as a fritter”. We were worried that there wouldn't be any room for us in our destination as we listened to the radio and heard all the American boats heading for our bay amongst others, of course. When we arrived, after navigating nearby current swept channels, we were surprised how big the cove is, plenty of room for everyone. We chose to anchor on the east side with one other vessel our size. All the other boats are on the other side.

As soon as we arrived we gathered our prawn gear and fishing tackle and set out to fish along the way to Roaringhole Rapids where we planned to pass through and set our prawn trap in Nepal Lagoon. Well, when we finally arrived at the rapids after trolling there we discovered that high slack doesn't mean that the narrows agrees. We were amazed too at the intensity of the flow, too much for the rib to navigate. It would have been a river

Anniversary Cruise I – July/Aug 2004

rafting experience. So we returned to a bay near the mouth where there was a logging road where we could give Kona a good walk. We saw one other inflatable approach the rapids and turn back (tender for the Marymac, skipper Robbie). We talked to them and the captain and yes he was confused to why the rapids were not slack when it was high slack. While we were talking to them two other tenders approached the rapids and didn't get too close either.

We returned to the Fish n Chips because it was starting to rain. Right now it's raining quite heavily. The Captain put our dry suits on the bow for a good fresh water rinse. Hopefully things will clear up tomorrow.

Tuesday, August 3	<u>Anchorage:</u> Turnbull Cove	<u>Weather:</u> Sunny, with increasing overcast and then showers in the evening.
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After a late breakfast and a couple of walks with Kona we decided to time the Roaringhole Rapids and put a prawn trap into Nepal Lagoon. We were a bit early for the rapids which made it exciting. We dropped our trap out in the first bay at about 190 feet well away from the rapids. We explored a little on a beach there where we found an old steam donkey and two creeks. Kona loved her run. When we returned to the rapids, they

were just ending for the slack.

Upon our return to the FnC we prepared for our kayak trip. We had planned to circumnavigate Watson Island but decided the currents would not be in our favour. We decided to go half way around with the flood helping us along and return with the ebb. We headed off through Kenneth Passage and went on the reef side of a small island to test the current. The water there was shallow and the water has beginning to form rapids on the rocks. We turned around and went on the other side of the island instead. There was current but nothing we couldn't handle. We rounded Claypole Point and took a picture of several gulls perched on a branch sticking out over the water. The wind was on this side of Watson Island so we paddled further along and stopped to lunch just before Hopetown Passage. The ebb current was picking up so we had lunch on a rock (beaches are almost no existent, typically rock faces and deep water) and went back the way we came. We passed

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Blair Islet where we planned to put our prawn trap if Nepah Lagoon didn't turn out. As we passed Roaringhole Rapids on our return it was quiet and the water was flat there. Time to pick up our prawn trap. We returned to the FnC, got out of our kayaks, got Kona and climbed into the rib. We pulled up our trap and found over one hundred "mystery guests" (100+ Squat Lobsters). We threw them back and were disappointed that prawns were not included in the catch. We decided to put our trap in another location next time as the timing of the rapids is, as the captain said, "Like trying to catch a bus." We didn't want our day focused around prawn trap retrieval.

As CA made curried crab for supper Kona started barking with all the hair up on her back. She was on the bow and had spotted a black bear foraging on the shoreline. We got out our binoculars and watched the bear for awhile. It seemed unperturbed by Kona barking at it. About this time it began to sprinkle rain again. The captain put the BCD's and regulators out on the bow for a fresh water rinse. Raining in the evening is okay with us!

Fish'N Chips Cruising News #7

From: Carol-Ann Giroday [mailto:cag_miss@c2eng.com]

Sent: August 8, 2004 8:11 PM

Hi there,

We have been very busy exploring since our last news! We crossed over Queen Charlotte Strait to the mainland and entered into Wells Passage and spent our first night at Dickson Island. We wanted to dive the small islets at the mouth of Wells Passage. We fished in the area and checked out the dive spot at the same time. Lots of current in there and we were a bit late getting into the water. Because of the current we stayed in one protected spot and just watched the life all around us. It was a shell bottom and there were lots of things to see. Many large rock scallops and several sculpins (a fish with a really big head that has great camouflage abilities). These fish are so confident that they can't be seen that they don't even move away when you cup them into your hands.

The next day we headed up north as far as you could go into Turnbull Cove. It's a huge bay with beautiful scenery and very protected from all winds. Nearby there is a Lagoon (Nepah Lagoon) with rapids at its entrance. They call them "Roaring Hole Rapids" and as you approach you can see the mist from the turbulent water and hear the roar as the water empties or fills the Lagoon through a narrow passageway. The drop is about two feet. We approached as close as we could when the water was filling in there but didn't want to get too close or we would have been in a river rafting experience. The rapids are still flowing about an hour and a half after the surrounding water is at slack. It takes that long for the water in the lagoon to reach the same level as the water outside of it. We had heard (my radio eavesdropping skills are very useful) that inside this large lagoon was a good prawn spot so we timed it just right and headed in to the lagoon. It was "flat as a fritter" in there and very beautiful. After we dropped the trap we took Kona to the beach and took some pictures of the area. We returned later that day and pulled up our trap and found over one hundred "squat lobsters". No prawns!!! These little lobsters look just like a lobster but their body is about the size of my thumb. They have one really long thin front claw that doesn't match up with their claw on the other side. We have seen several of them when we have pulled up prawn traps before but never a full trap load of 'em!! They are not edible and if they were they'd be a headache to clean. We decided that we would relocate the trap outside of the rapids. The Captain said it was too much like "catching a bus" to get in and out of the lagoon when the water is quiet.

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While we were having dinner that night Kona went out on the bow and started barking and all the hair was up on her back. Sure enough, there was a black bear on the shoreline turning over the rocks and searching for food. We sat on the bow and watched him through our binoculars. Kona continued a low growl just to let him know that she was on guard at all times. He didn't seem the least bit worried about it. The next morning, after I took Kona to shore I went to pull up our crab trap nearby. Unbeknownst to me Kona had spotted a bear on the shoreline again. She didn't growl or bark at him this time. If you look closely at the picture attached you'll see the bear on the shoreline with Kona looking right at him. I went back to the boat and picked up the Captain and we got closer to him to take some pictures but he didn't much like that so he moved off back into the bush. I was glad to see he was timid because we planned to hike up to the lake after breakfast.

We took the Forestry trail to the lake. It was a steep uphill climb and just about when I thought I wasn't going to play mountain goat any longer, the trail flattened out and we went down the other side to the lake by a stair case made of logs. There was picnic table there, fire pit, large dock with a ladder to the water and a log raft out a ways to swim too. The water was beautiful and warm and we had the lake all to ourselves. After our swim we packed up and headed out for a kayak trip around nearby Walker Island. Beautiful scenery. The water here is very deep but not as cold as water just off the Straits. The islands have steep walls coming right to the water and there are very few beach areas. We climbed out of our kayaks onto some low rocks to have our lunch and then carried on back home. We plan to explore more of the area and then make our way back to Johnstone Strait to do some more diving there before heading south for a slow ride home. You can bet I'll be having the brakes on all the way!

Take care all and hope to hear from you soon, Fish'N Chips OUT

Wednesday, August 4	Anchorage: Cecil Island	Weather: Cloudy in the morning then sun
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Got up at 1030 and CA took Kona for shore duty while the Captain made coffee. On CA's return the Captain took pictures as she retrieved the crab trap and noticed a black bear on the shore line again. CA brought in the trap, picked up the Captain and started slowly over to the shore to get some pictures of the bear. He looked up at us and as we got closer slowly made his way back into

the underbrush. We returned to the FnC for a late breakfast (noon). There is a forestry trail to a lake we plan to hike to today. We heard of it from the folks from the "Majestra" when

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we were discussing the rapids. The trail head is just around the corner from our anchorage. Kona will enjoy the hike.

A beautiful lake it was. The water was warm too and we went for a swim. The hike to the lake is short but it involves walking up a steep path and then down the slope to the lake by steps cut out of a sunken log. At the lake shore there is a picnic table, fire pit, dock, ladder into the water and a short swim to a log raft.



We immediately weighed anchor upon our return from the lake and made our way to Sullivan Bay. We planned to anchor in the bay opposite Sullivan Bay and next to Atkinson Island but holding ground proved to be very poor and the captain aborted any further attempts. We continued to Greenway Sound instead. We are now anchored behind Cecil Island. It was determined after one night there that the better anchorage would have been

slightly south, just past the Broughton Lagoon Rapids for Kona access and less boat waves. The winds were calm and the night was quiet but morning travelers rocked us a wee bit. We put out a prawn trap between the fish farm and Maude Islet, had dinner and retired.

Thursday, August 5	<u>Anchorage:</u> Cecil Island	<u>Weather:</u> Cloudy in the morning then sun. Rain in the late afternoon
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CA woke up first and took Kona to shore and picked up the prawn trap. One small prawn in the trap. CA was very disappointed. No prawns yet!! After breakfast we did some mooching by Maude Islet, put a prawn trap around the corner in Suttle Channel (Harry Bay just past Cypress Harbour). We plan to head to Shawl Bay later today so will pick the prawn trap up on route. We returned to the FnC, and took off again for Greenway Bay to check out their groceries and go for another hike to another lake. There was a change in the weather and we traveled in a slight chop with rain. We bought a few groceries, got two free videos and did the hike. Lovely trail in but the lake had no shore line for us to take another swim. Returned to the FnC, and pulled anchor. Picked up the prawn trap – again not one prawn!! CA is getting very frustrated. Continued on to Shawl Bay and found the place quiet and almost deserted. An abandoned yacht club building, several float homes, many in poor condition, somewhat of a shanty town. A few boats in the marina. Very

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deep bay so we anchored in shallow water behind the small no-name island just northwest of the marina. Had dinner and relaxed. When the Captain went to take Kona to shore in, pitch black darkness, uncharted rocks had appeared near the shore line on the mainland side. Staying to the centre of the opening avoids them.

Friday, August 6	<u>Anchorage:</u> Johnny Card Bay (Bootlegger Bay)	<u>Weather:</u> Cloudy in the morning, rainshower in the late afternoon, sun in the evening.
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Woke up and CA took Kona to a grassy spot nearby that was much easier to negotiate in the daylight. While listening to the radio a woman from the boat “Bay Finder” was talking about the prawns she got off Cypress Harbour which is right near where we had our trap down in Harry Bay. Maybe the time span we left it down for while in Greenway Sound wasn’t long enough. After breakfast it was decided we would proceed to Echo Bay to get gas and check out the marina. There is a government dock there and a nice sandy beach and forest trail for a walk with Kona. We did a drive by of “Pierre’s Bay” in Scott Cove. There is an annual “pig roast” scheduled there this weekend. As we drove in two seaplanes were dropping off weekend guests for the gala affair. In Echo Bay we were greeted by Louise on the “Wind Song” dock. Louise and her husband George, shipwright, own the “Surf Scoter” a wooden sailboat built in 1929 and bought by them in 1966. We snooped around the craft store, crossed over the bay and bought gas, propane and a few groceries (very expensive). We walked to the trail by the government dock and meandered



through the school yard there as well as the community hall. We also visited Billy Proctor and his museum at the end of the forest path that lead to his place. We bought his book. We tried our luck fishing for Coho, only opened in the immediate area because of a nearby hatchery, but all we caught was ground fish for every pull. We needed crab bait anyway and they would do just fine.

On our return from fishing Billy Proctor was on the dock visiting with Louise and George. Billy recommended Johnny Card Bay for our night’s anchorage rather than Waddington Bay as we had planned. We did go there and found it to be very well protected from wind and waves. There is also good rock ledge on the foreshore and a rainforest canopy for Kona. We laid a crab trap right near the boat, had dinner, and watched a video.

Saturday, August 7	<u>Anchorage:</u> Johnny Card Bay (Bootlegger Bay)	<u>Weather:</u> Sunny all day, no wind.
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Woke up, had breakfast, brought in one crab and prepared to drop a prawn trap out in Cramer Passage. A sailboat, Saltire, arrived in our cozy bay. Kona and the Captain spotted another black bear on the shoreline. As we left to drop the prawn trap we stop to chat and on our return Captain Donald and his mate, Allison, invited us aboard for drinks after our afternoon kayak trip to Waddington Bay. We set our trap in Cramer Passage

and then realized there was too much current there so we pulled it up and relocated it around the corner behind a small group of island near Solitaire Rocks. We took Kona to a small shell beach and CA dug up a bucket full of butter clams. We tested the meat against our lips to see if they went numb – they didn't. We can't call Fisheries to determine if they're okay or not. We reset our crab trap in the heel of the "boot" and made away for a peaceful paddle and picnic to Waddington Bay. While there we stopped and chatted with a Pacific Trawler owner of "Alert". We discussed his boat choice over a Krogen or an Eagle. He liked the bigger saloon and galley in the P.T. We returned for appies and drinks on the Saltire to find that Allison had caught a 15 pound spring! She bestowed a large hunk on salmon on us as they couldn't store that much. We later brought them back some prawns (returned the clams to their original bed – too scary to take a chance with them), rebaited the prawn trap for the night, and baited our crab trap with Allison's fish head. After celebrating the catch with drinks on the Saltire, we checked our crab trap and there were 19 crabs in it! Only 3 were legal size, however. Reset trap, had a late dinner and retired.

Sunday, August 8	<u>Anchorage:</u> Booker Lagoon	<u>Weather:</u> Sunny all day
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Got up at 830, took Kona to shore and retrieved 4 Dungeness crabs from the trap. Had breakfast, made bread, gave Allison and Donald four crabs we caught yesterday and said goodbye to them. We put away our kayaks and prepared to depart for Booker Lagoon. As we headed out we stopped to pull up our prawn trap while the FnC waits nearby. CA brought back about 15 prawns and Kona had a quick trip to shore. We continued on our way and went across the Fox Group and decided to go through Blunden Passage and through a narrow passageway between Eden Island and Insect Island. On either side of the passage there were two lovely shell beaches that would make great kayaking picnic spots when we are in the area again. We passed through to Fife Sound and cruise down to Booker Lagoon. The day was sunny and cloudless but a one foot chop from the wind blowing up the sound from Queen Charlotte Strait. When we arrived in Cullen Harbour we

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noticed an anchor spot that would be perfect for just the FnC but continued on through Booker Passage to check out Booker Lagoon. A very large lagoon, about as big as three Montague Harbours in the Gulf Islands. We turned back and went to the anchorage we first spotted. After anchoring CA and Kona went to put a prawn trap down in the lagoon and while they were there the resident dolphins came to play with them. Kona got quite upset when they came so close

and jumped near the boat so CA returned to the FnC and left Kona behind and took the Captain to the opening where the dolphins wait for boaters to enter into the lagoon. We played with them for a time and took pictures which was difficult because they are so quick. In the time that CA laid the trap and the dolphin play we pulled up the prawn trap and there were forty prawns already in it. Great prawning place!! Returned to the FnC for a delightful dinner, relaxation and a good night's sleep.

Monday, August 9	<u>Anchorage:</u> Booker Lagoon	<u>Weather:</u> Sunny all day
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Woke up, took Kona for shore duty on Long Island and made our own Inukshuk. Pulled up the prawn trap to find another 40 prawns. After a leisurely breakfast we when fishing outside Cullen Harbour. CA made some phone calls to family and friends while out in the open. Weather was beautiful and hot. We heard in the distance a humpback whale and as we were pulling in our reel to go check him out further he seemed to disappear. Several minutes later he surfaced right where we were

and Rick got a great shot of him as he was going to dive. We estimate his tail to be about 24 feet across. We fished a while longer and then returned home. Checked our prawn trap again and again there were 40 to 50 prawns. The captain got the bright idea to lay two

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traps down off the same line and we expect a “double haul” tomorrow morning. After a great meal we did some e-mailing of newsletters and the “whale tail” and retired.



Fish'N Chips Cruising News #8

From: Carol-Ann Giroday [mailto:cag_miss@c2eng.com]

Sent: August 9, 2004 11:49 PM

Subject: Fish'N Chips Cruising News #8

Hi there,

Since our last “news” we have moved away from the topmost reaches of the Broughton area and traveled down to Broughton Island North to check out Sullivan Bay. It is a floating little (and I mean little) town complete with post office, store, liquor store, and all you need to stock up and move on. We drove by it but it was packed with huge American yachts relishing in our beautiful land and sea, not to mention all our sea life. Check out the helicopter on the roof of one of the float homes.

We spend two nights in a little anchorage tucked in by Broughton Rapids, by Greenway Sound near a very large fish farm. The islands in this area have lots of little skinny passageways that you sometimes can and can't travel through and lagoons on the other side of them. Lots of water trying to get through a very skinny place makes for fun “watching” and not always entering. We went into Greenway Sound and the marina/resort there and picked up a bit of fresh fruit and veggies and took in their hike to another beautiful lake although it wasn't easy to access so we just looked at it from a view point. After that we pulled anchor and head down Sutlej Channel to another small resort in Shawl Bay at the mouth of Kingcome Inlet. There is a small resort there, looks like it has seen more profitable days. There we saw some float homes that were quite nice and others that could be categorized in the “shanty town” variety. We anchored nearby in a protected area behind a small island in the bay and enjoyed a calm, windless night.

The next day we took off down Penphrase Passage and through Raleigh Passage towards Fife Sound to check out Pierre's Bay near Scott Cove. Pierre was having an annual pig roast and many

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boats in the area were heading over there for the gala event. As we passed by to check it out two sea planes were bringing people in to take part in the festivities. We continued on down the water about another three miles to arrive at Echo Bay where we could get gas and groceries. There are two resorts there, Echo Bay Resort and Windsong Resort. There is a small government dock there too with a nice sandy beach and a trail that leads through the forest to the head of the bay. We got to chatting with the people at the Windsong Resort and they told us to continue on past the trail and stop in at Billy Proctor's place and tour his museum and art gallery and take a look at the book he has written about the history of the Broughton Archipelago, some of the local people, and much of its sites and anchorages. We talked to some people docked there who were from Sidney. They were on a sailboat that was built in 1929 and they have owned it since 1966. An old girl but very well kept.

We took the hiking trail, went past the Echo Bay School that has nine students from Kindergarten to Grade 7 that come from the surrounding area. We went to Billy Proctor's house and he came out and invited us into his museum and gallery. He had a collection of bottles that he has found around in the area as well as trapping, fishing and logging items from long ago. He and his family have lived in the area for generations and he was a trapper, fisherman, and logger himself. A very interesting fellow. We bought his book and it has been very informative. He co-authored it with a woman who lives nearby that is a water color artist. She did the sketches and illustrations for his book.

After our visit we returned to the dock, did a bit of fishing and came back to the dock to leave for our next anchorage. Billy was at the dock and recommended we go to Bootlegger Bay, an unnamed bay that was just down the road. We took his advice and found a lovely protected bay shaped like a boot. The story of that place was a friend of his had a logging site there and when he was messing with the logs one of the logs rolled and pinned his leg. He had to wait several hours stuck there until high tide came and floated the log off of him. We anchored there and the next morning while we were having breakfast a sailboat came in to join us. We got chatting with the people and later in the day, after we went kayaking, we returned to find the first mate, Allison, had caught a fifteen pound spring salmon just outside the bay. She is a little bit of a thing, retiring in January, and she caught and netted this big fish all by herself. She said she goes out in her little "rubber ducky" dingy every night for about an hour just to get out and explore and enjoy the beauty and she has never caught a salmon. We celebrated their catch on board their boat the Saltire, and they gave us half their catch because they couldn't refrigerate or eat that much fish!! We used their salmon head, tail and guts to bait our crab trap and when we checked three hours later there were nineteen crabs in the trap. Crabs love blood and fresh fish!! Only three of them were big enough to keep though. We set a prawn trap too and we did catch about thirty. My first prawns of the season!! We gave the Saltire four crabs and half our prawns for the yummy salmon they gave us.

Kona and Rick spotted another bear on the shoreline. He was much closer so our pictures of him are better. Now I am very apprehensive when I take Kona to shore. I like to stay out in the open and don't venture very far into the woods. When we go hiking we have a bear bell attached to our shoelaces so we give the bears lots of time to vacate the area. They want to see us about as much as we want to see them – or at least that's what I'm banking on.

We went kayaking around the area and into Waddington Bay where we had originally planned to anchor before Billy Proctor told us about Bootlegger Bay. We stayed one more night in Bootlegger Bay and in the morning headed out for Booker Lagoon which is on the edge of Queen Charlotte Strait across from Malcolm Island.

We had been told last year that there are resident dolphins that hang out in Booker Lagoon and they are very familiar with the boats and love to play in the splash and wake of boats that come in and out at the narrow entrance to the lagoon. We pulled into the area and there were several boats anchored in the bays before the lagoon – Cullen Harbour. We went through the narrow passage into the lagoon. It was at least 40 feet deep and no problem to go through. The lagoon is huge – like three Montague Harbours in the Gulf Islands. We didn't like the area for an anchorage and chose instead a small bay just big enough for us just outside the passageway. Once we anchored

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the Captain was busy doing his “stuff” so I headed into the lagoon to set a prawn trap. While I was there the dolphins came to play with me. Unbelievable!!!! They swam around the Catch-Up as if to say, “Come on lady! Let’s go!” I started to scoot around a bit and they came under and around the boat so close I actually thought at one point that I had ran over one of them! There were two of them and Kona was getting quite upset because they came so close. She stood up on the side of the boat and started growling and whining thinking they were attacking us. I left them and went and picked up the Captain and left Kona behind this time. If you look closely at the bottom right corner of the picture attached you will see the handle of the Catch-Up on the starboard side. That is how close the dolphin came to the boat. As Rick was driving I hung over the side and they were right beside and about a foot under the water. It was exhilarating!!! Getting pictures of them was really tricky because they are so fast and come up out of nowhere. To top it off, after playing with the dolphins, we checked our prawn trap and there were forty prawns in there after only an hour down. I finally found prawns – this is a great place!

We plan to spend another day here fishing and exploring and then cross over the Queen Charlotte Strait to Alert Bay and get water, gas and groceries. We are going to go diving again in the area for probably another week. It is so beautiful there and the water is very clear. We will be whale watching there and try more fishing too. It’s the same area we were in when my son, Peter, and his friend Greg came to stay for a week in early July.

Will keep you posted.
Fish’nChips OUT

Tuesday, August 10	<u>Anchorage:</u> Alert Bay Government Dock	<u>Weather:</u> Sunny all day with a few wispy clouds
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After breakfast the Captain pulled the prawn traps while CA did dishes and got laundry ready to take into Alert Bay. Captain returned with a double load of prawns all a good size. We pulled anchor and headed across Queen Charlotte Strait for Alert Bay. Wind was gusty and picked up more around Malcolm Island as we approached Alert Bay. Tied up to the dock, did laundry, grocery shopping and Kona outing. Barbequed for dinner “steak Neptune”, did some e-mailing, picture naming, and log writing. Retired at 2300 to read and drift off to sleep.

Wednesday, August 11	<u>Anchorage:</u> Safety Boat Cove	<u>Weather:</u> Sunny near end of the day
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We met Maria Sternberg and Chris from Sea Snaps on their 37 foot Bayliner “Shelly Rae”. Maria was in a back brace since her plane crash accident in May while filming a sailboat race near Thetis Island. The pilot was killed in the crash and she was very lucky to survive. She seems to be doing quite well considering the seriousness of the accident although she said that she is going to have an operation soon. We also met Bob from San Fran. at the municipal dock in his Nordic Tug the “Norma Jean”, yes there was a picture of Marilyn Monroe in his pilothouse. We were returning from shopping at the fish store and the liquor store and he offered us a ride over to the public dock. We showed him the way to a quieter

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dock where we have spent the night twice (for free) on this trip. We filled up with water and went to the fuel dock for cheap fuel \$0.69/L diesel and then we headed for Plumper Islands for a planned week of diving. We ran into six Dall’s Porpoises on the way there on our bow. Kona was not happy that these creatures were threatening her boat so she had to be put inside while the Captain took a few pictures. We anchored in our Safety Boat Cove, tied up our shore tie and enjoyed another meal of prawns from Booker Lagoon. Retired early with an excitement for tomorrow’s dive.

Thursday, August 12	<u>Anchorage:</u> Safety Boat Cove	<u>Weather:</u> Sunny all day except for early morning
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Water visibility looked good in the morning then later it changed to the worse in the afternoon. We decided to dive Stubbs Island an hour before slack on the leeward side. Weather was perfect, sun and not too hot. When we approached the dive spot two large seals, one gray/white and a young one brown in color were sunning on the rocks where we were going to tie up.

Dive #11 – Stubbs Island SE - Down at 1547 for 90/33

We had plenty of time to submerge ourselves on this dive since we arrive ahead of the



slack. We went around the southeast end of the island and saw coral, Irish Lords, a very large Puget Sound King Crab, (CA says it’s the same guy from last year in the same place) several Orange Peel nudibranches and one of CA’s favorites a white dendronotid, only 3.4 cm at its largest. Very relaxing dive – it pays to go early!

We came up from our dive and relaxed with a cool beer. Then we heard the

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blow hole of a whale and spotted a humpback in the distance in Blackfish Sound. We waited and watched and slowly got our anchor line and shore line pulled in ready to move away from the dive spot. The whale moved into our area and started down Weynton Passage. We followed at a distance to wait for a good tail shot. As we waited in Weynton Passage for him to come up again a dall's porpoise buzzed the rib. CA got a glimpse of something on the port side and then the porpoise surfaced off the bow and blew and took off. The captain was startled by the sound as he had his eyes in the view finder of the camera when the dolphin came up. Very playful animals! The whale surfaced again near the entrance to Safety Boat Cove where we are anchored. There is a reef in the middle of the passage and he bobbed around in there in relatively shallow water and then exited out onto the Blackfish Sound side of the passage. He was very close to the rocks and one of the dive sites we did three weeks ago. He seemed to know his way around.

Fish'n Chips Cruising News #9

From: Carol-Ann Giroday [mailto:cag_miss@c2eng.com]

Sent: August 13, 2004 8:01 PM

Subject: Fish'n Chips Cruising News #9

Hi there,

It seems that ever since we made the decision not to go further north because the wind and weather wasn't cooperating we have had nothing but great weather and great wildlife! Beautiful sunny days without a cloud in the sky.

We spent one night at Alert Bay and stocked up, met some friends from Thetis Island there and got a ride in a 32 foot Nordic Tug all the way up here from California. We were at the other end of town and we went to look at his boat that was docked in an open area where he was getting rocked around. We told him to try where we were behind the breakwater and he said climb in and show me the way. So away we went. Nice boat and lots of space for a 32. The Captain always says, "The size of the boat is more than its length." Captain Bob from California had been up to Alaska and was returning home.

As we were motoring towards our favorite anchor spot in the Plumper Islands we were side-swiped by ten Dall's porpoises. They came out to the boat off some reefs near Pearse Islands and starting jumping and playing in our bow waves. Kona got so upset she was standing up on the rim of the bow like the girl on the Titanic; barking and growling. I had to put her in so I could enjoy the show. As quickly as they came they disappeared!

We have had two dives so far and plan to dive two more spots over the next two days. Rick says the water is clearer if we dive at low tide so instead of a late afternoon dive tomorrow we are going in the water at 10:00. No leisurely breakfast for me. We went fishing after one dive and the seagulls started their calling and swarming and we went over to see what all the hullabaloo was about. In our book about how to fish, Charlie White says that the birds will signal you where the fish are. If there are just gulls the fish are at the surface. If there are gulls and diving birds the fish are deeper. The gulls hang around to get the leftovers that the diving birds don't finish as the salmon (hopefully) gorge themselves under the water on the herring school. There were gulls and diving birds but we didn't catch any fish. Rick saw a silver flashing in the water and when we went over it was a herring ball about three feet around. We took one scoop with our fishing net to get some live bait. I felt sorry for them just gasping there in the boat so I scooped them all up and threw them

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back into the water. I kept four of them to use for bait. Their scales are very delicate so I hope they survived the on slot of my handling them.

The next day after another dive we heard the blow of a whale and spotted another humpback in the distance. We waited to see where he was going and he came our way. While we were intent on watching him, just sitting there with the motor idling, a Dall's porpoise "buzzed" the boat. Something white caught the corner of my eye and then he jumped out of the water by the boat, took a breath and then took off. Rick had his eye in the viewfinder of the camera getting ready for when the whale came up so you can imagine that he was quite startled to hear a "blow" right beside the boat! Not the humpback honey, just a little porpoise. I wish I had the camera to get the look on his face! We continued on and followed the "legal" distance behind the humpback and he went into the small passageway around the corner from our anchorage. He didn't do the characteristic tail-in-the-air dive after five surface breathes because the water was too shallow. He was right beside a dive spot we had been at when my son Peter was on board with us. Peter, you asked me if a whale would ever come into that area and I said I didn't think so because it was too narrow and not very deep. Well, I was wrong!! He was right where you and Greg were kayaking the day you came to watch us go diving.

So far we haven't seen any killer whales. Seals, porpoises, and humpbacks for now. We may see orcas when we head down Johnstone Strait when we finish diving here. After that we plan to go to Octopus Islands and do some diving and prawning there. All the prawns we caught in Booker Lagoon have been consumed so we're about ready for another batch.

Will write again soon. Thanks for the replies, it's great to hear back from you.
Fish'nChips OUT

Friday, August 13	<u>Anchorage:</u> Safety Boat Cove	<u>Weather:</u> Sunny all day
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We relaxed all day sunning and reading books on the bow. Mid afternoon we went for a dive. Before the dive we met a guy in a big black zodiac, named Wilf. Said he was from the Peace River area in Alberta and goes to a small trailer park/resort across from Alert Bay each year to come fishing.

Dive #12 – North Pierce Island - Down at 1639 for 102/33

A good dive, lots of small cliffs at various depths. Vis wasn't that great. It only improved at depth. No trouble with current.

Saturday, August 14	<u>Anchorage:</u> Safety Boat Cove	<u>Weather:</u> Cloudy with fog patches in the morning, sunny in the afternoon
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We rose earlier than usual to catch the morning slack. The captain insisted on having porridge which caused us to be late for the dive. It's always best to be on site 1 hour ahead of time.

Dive #13 – Bob’s Wall - Down at 944 for 75/35

We arrived too late for the 1000 slack. Current had already picked up when we got into the water. We swam against the current away from the narrows and found slower water in the opening. Overall, current wasn't a hindrance. Many small cliffs and rock outcroppings for good potential life harbourage but we didn't see anything real exciting. Vis wasn't as good as expected, so much for the theory low tide – good vis.

After the dive we relaxed on the FnC sunning and reading. Afterwards we took Kona for a forest walk and then went fishing for an hour. Had a phone call from Peter asking about Auntie Denise's 50th birthday tonight in Richmond. Also a call from David asking if he could give away the couches as he got free nice ones from Ahmid's family. We are planning to take off tomorrow for Johnstone Strait. Winds are forecasted to build in the afternoon to small craft but from the NW so we will have it on our stern. We will probably near our planned anchorage by then anyway. Had a dinner of halibut from fish store in Alert Bay, read, did computer work and retired.

Sunday, August 15	<u>Anchorage:</u> Thurston Lagoon	<u>Weather:</u> Sunny with fog patches early morning in north sections, sunny in the afternoon
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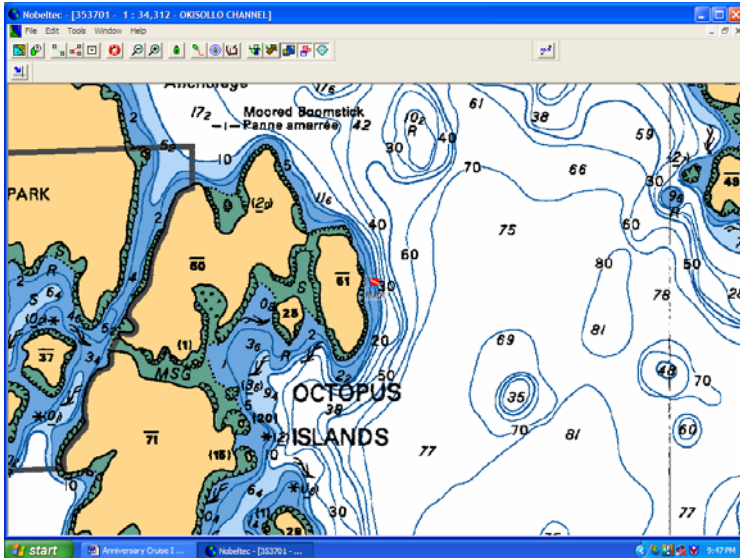
Woke up at 0800 and C.A. took Kona to shore and untied the shoreline at the same time. The weather is good with no wind. Had breakfast and cleaned up and made away from Safety Boat Cove at 0945. As we were pulling away the Captain noticed the whale watching boat Lutka and three killer whales just outside our

anchorage in Johnstone Strait. We pulled in the Catch-up and turned off the engines and got some photos. First killer whales we've seen this trip. Later in Johnston Strait near Robson Bight we encountered the "Queen of the North" a paddle ship, stopped and not running. Rick thought that she was broke down. We were then visited by a Robson Bight Reserve official, young guy that said he worked regularly at the Vancouver Aquarium. He

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informed us that we had just crossed the boundary marked by two signs across Robson Bight. He probably just wanted to give us information because we were heading out anyway. The Queen of the North he informed us was stopped viewing whales and that was the reason she had stopped. Robson Bight is a feeding and beaching area for Orca's and marked by the signs, bigger than we thought. The whales were gone by the time we arrived by Queen of the North and she was underway by that time as well. We continued on and only saw whales along the shore in the distance. The weather was fantastic with a 15-20 kt wind behind us in the afternoon. There were no wave to make us uncomfortable. We decided to continue further than planned and go all the way to Thurston Marine Park. We arrived in at about 1930 just as the current started to switch against us in Nodales Channel. On the way we put Kona ashore in Johnstone Strait and then on an island just outside our anchorage of Thurston Lagoon. Rick took her in Johnstone Strait but CA did the island job and then met FnC back at the anchorage. Rick likes to go ashore in Johnston Strait because it quite different. It can be described as remote because there is not sign of human presence and wild because it so open to the weather. Beaches usually consist of round rocks not sand varying in size by area. Thurston is a great anchorage, usually plenty of room for everyone. The only draw back is that entrance can only be made at reasonably high tide. A 2 foot tide yields only 3 or 4 feet borderline passage for the FnC.

Monday, August 16	<u>Anchorage:</u> Octopus Islands	<u>Weather:</u> Sunny all day - HOT
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As planned, after an hour of fishing we departed Thurston Lagoon at approx 1400. We went around Sonora Island and entered Okisollo Channel. We got worried about the current so we stalled by fishing for awhile. We made our passage through Upper Rapids at 1630 which amounted to a calculated 7-8 knot current. CA was driving and found it to be no problem steering. We found anchorage in Octopus Islands without any problem. It seems that there are slightly less boats

here than last year. We set a prawn trap in the same place as last year and so far we're getting the same results (20 fair sized this pull). We decided to put the "condo" prawn traps down and pick-up at 2030. We are careful to not leave the trap for too long especially not over night with the currents around. On our way back to the FnC we stopped and talked to the captain of "Prime Time" a 34' American Tug. He said he preferred the walk around area on this boat to the Pacific Trawler. Had supper late, discussed tomorrow's dive plan and retired to read until drowsy.

Tuesday, August 17	<u>Anchorage:</u> Octopus Islands	<u>Weather:</u> Sunny all day. HOT
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After breakfast prepared to dive and set “condo” prawn trap on route. Decided to dive a different spot and got in the water at just the right time.

Dive #14 – Octopus Islands - Down at

Lots of swimming scallops. Drop offs at various depths. Rocky outcroppings harbouring rock fish. We saw a tiger band rock fish and one ling cod. Puget Sound King Crab at the end of the dive in the shallows. Vis 30 feet 40 at depth.

Checked the prawn traps after the dive and again had a good haul. Reset them and planned to check back in two hours. Returned to the FnC, had lunch and went for a hike from



Waiatt Bay to Small Inlet with a rising tide. Full trip took one hour. Nice and cool in the shade of the trees. Kona was in hot pursuit of several chipmunks that threatened us. When we got to the Small Inlet side it was so hot out in the sun that CA soaked her head in a nearby cool stream. We

stopped to check our prawn trap again, rebait and pick up at 2030. On our return to our anchorage we stopped to chat with the friends we met at Kent Island, Don and Yetta on the Annie Mac who had come in while we were away. They told us of their adventures to date and we told them ours. They are heading home to Chemanus but they keep their boat at Thetis in the Marina that is not the pub one (Green Bear’s). They are going to be house-sitting the privately owned Scott Island (across from the Thetis ferry location) for September and October. A Welsh Lord owns it and stays there twice for two weeks each

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year and drinks, wrecks his boat and goes home. Don's friend is the caretaker and when he needs a holiday Don and Yetta stay at the island for him. They told us to call for them at Christmas time if we are in the area because they are usually around the Thetis area at that time, especially for New Year's. After leaving their boat we stopped to talk to the owners of the Californian "RHalcyon" who were out in inflatable kayaks. They are from Nanaimo and have owned their '78 since last summer. We returned to the FnC and had cool drinks in the stern cockpit as the cabin was too hot with dinner in the oven. Before dinner we returned to fetch our prawn trap and have a total catch since yesterday of 198 prawns half of which are large. Returned to have dinner, star gaze awhile, shore duty for Kona and retire to read until drowsy.

Wednesday, August 18	<u>Anchorage:</u> Bold Point – Crescent Channel	<u>Weather:</u> Sunny all day, breezy, hot
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We set our course for the Village Bay area. After passing through Beazley Passage and wondering around the Hoskyn Channel looking at the dock at Surge Narrows we decided to continue on. We landed up at Bold Island coming through the North Channel which proved to be completely navigable. Clams and oysters were gathered on the beach by CA while taking Kona ashore.

Thursday, August 19	<u>Anchorage:</u> Bold Point – Crescent Channel	<u>Weather:</u> Sunny all day, breezy, hot
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Rick had to take Kona ashore early morning. She gave us a whimper and jumped into the RIB. Rick rushed her to shore just in time for the runs. CA thinks the heat got to her while digging clams yesterday. It turned out to be a lazy day. Rick was on the phone for business for an hour and half. Afterwards CA gave him a haircut free of charge. We spent an hour digging for clams and then we went to Village Bay for a planned hike to the lake. When we arrived on the shoreline we found no trespassing signs everywhere, one identified by the Cape Mudge Indian Band. We ventured anyway and found a path by following a dried creek. We were on the right track because we encountered another no trespassing sign. Enough warnings for Rick and CA gave in and we returned. On our way back we talked with Lou and Jim on the "Pippa" sailboat. They had just anchored in Village Bay. They live on Pender Island and keep their boat in Browning Harbour (the Gooner Bar Marina).

Fish'n Chips Cruising News #10

From: Carol-Ann Giroday [mailto:cag_miss@c2eng.com]
Sent: August 19, 2004 10:05 PM
Subject: Fish'n Chips Cruising News #10

Hi there,

As we hoped when we started down Johnstone Strait we would see killer whales and they didn't disappoint us. We first saw three just as we were leaving our anchorage and then as we journeyed along on a beautiful sunny calm day we got close to Robson Bight to see if there were any there. This is an area where they are known to go ashore and rub themselves on the small pebbled beach to get the barnacles off themselves. As we approached we were approached by a zodiac with "Warden" written on the side of it. It turns out that whole stretch of coast line is a reserve for the whales now and we were inside the boundary by about 200 yards. The "Warden" was a nice young guy from Vancouver Aquarium who looks after the whales and nousey tourists over the summer. There were about 30 whales along the shore line just cruising along. We could only see the spray mist from their blowholes from the distance we were allowed to view from.

It was such a nice day that we decided to do Johnstone Strait all at once and traveled to Thurston Marine Park and arrived there at about supper time. We anchored in the lagoon this time which has a skinny shallow opening to it but opens up into a lovely protected anchorage. We went fishing the next morning while waiting for the tide to rise. The skinny opening was only about two feet deep until the tide came in. We headed out for Octopus Island and had to time our arrival because there are rapids that you have to go through to get into the area. We went through when the rapids were just starting to calm down so we were pushed through at about 7 knots faster than if the water were still or slack.

We went diving at Octopus Islands, the water was surprisingly clear. There are tons of swimming scallops down there. They have the same shaped shell as the Shell Gas symbol and they propel themselves through the water by opening and closing their shells. They remind me on dentures opening and closing in a cartoon as they swim along.

The weather sure is hot down here!! I can hardly stand it even with an ocean breeze!! I don't know how anybody can stand it inland. It's like there is an invisible line between north and south Vancouver Island where the weather is still sunny but the breeze is cool and refreshing.

We went to our favorite prawning area in the Octopus Islands and were very successful there again this year. We took Kona on a hike through the woods from Wyatt Bay along a trail to another bay, Small Inlet, on the other side. It was lovely and cool in there. When we reached the other side it was so hot out in the open that I went into the woods and stuck my head in a crystal clear stream just to cool off. We left there after two nights and went through another set of rapids (Surge Narrows) and made our way yesterday to the east side of Quadra Island. We are in a lovely anchorage called Crescent Channel off Bull Point just north of Village Bay. We plan today to go to Village Bay with the Catch-up and hike to two lakes that join into each other. It is a quarter mile hike to the first lake and if we were really industrious we could carry our kayaks the quarter mile and paddle through the lakes. We'll check it out this time and maybe kayak another time if the portage isn't too difficult.

When we arrived at Quadra anchorage yesterday it was again very sunny and hot. There is a fish farm here that has an unusual pile of what look like blue marshmallows all in uniform lines. Don't know what is farmed here but would like to find out. There were two small boats nearby with buckets on the shore-line so Kona and I went over in the Catch-Up to investigate what they were doing. They were collecting clams. I asked about them and they said it is only butter clams you can't eat around here and these clams were manilla clams. They have stripes going down the shell and across whereas the butter clams have a stripe running around the shell and not down. So . . . I got out my bucket and filled it up a bit! I grabbed twelve oysters while I was at it. We had checked with Fisheries before we came into this area and they said open to everything except butter clams. I don't know what I was thinking but I dismissed the clam family entirely until talking to these guys about the manilla clams. Anyway, dinner was clam and prawn pasta and it was yummy. We plan to get more this afternoon when the tide goes out then off for our hike to the lakes.

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Poor Kona. I think the heat got to her yesterday. At about five a.m. I woke up to her whining and she was rustling around so I was thinking I had to wake up the Captain because she needed an emergency visit to shore. I waited a bit hoping she would change her mind but instead she went out the back doors of the boat and jumped into the Catch-up and was waiting in there for the engine to start. Rick got up and escorted her to shore and kept me informed by walky-talky of her progress. He said she jumped out of the boat and ran up to the first patch of grass and was made instantly more comfortable. It wasn't really black at that time of day so he made out alright with our faithful bear dog.

We are staying one more night here and then continuing on our way. Tomorrow night we will be in Gorge Harbour on the west side of Cortes Island. From there we will probably spend two nights and kayak in the area. There's a marine park nearby that I haven't seen before and nearby Shark Spit is a lovely sandy beach to sit at and watch the day go by.

Will be in touch as long as we get two ticks of digital on our cell phone!!

Take care and stay cool,

P.S. We went on our hike as indicated above and came across several "NO TRESPASSING" signs at the beginning of the trail. The Captain was apprehensive because they were signs erected by the Cape Mudge Indian Band. He doesn't like to cross the local natives on "their land". I urged him to carry on a short way just to see if we could spy the lakes. We both forgot our hiking boots and were padding along in our water sandals through the forest. The Captain felt that the mission should be aborted due to poor footwear, no trespassing signs and a less than adequate trail that could potentially find us lost. Because of my tenacious personality, that the Captain refers to at times as "bossy", I continued to urge him on and we were almost there when we came to a huge log across the trail with a recent sign posted to an oak cabinet door saying again, "NO TRESPASSING!" The Captain would not be pushed any further and feared that our inflatable boat would be slashed to pieces by property owners if we did not return to shore immediately. I finally gave over and we returned to our inflatable and headed for home. We stopped briefly to talk to two people aboard a sailboat and made our way back to our anchorage for dinner and relaxation.

Fish'n Chips OUT

Friday, August 20	<u>Anchorage:</u> Gorge Harbour	<u>Weather:</u> Sunny all day, breezy, hot
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Rick went to shore with Kona this morning and found a road. He reported back so we decided that we should try one more time to locate the Village Bay Lake (largest lake on a island surrounded by salt water). The road which we went left on turned out to be someone's driveway but no problem as it lead to Bold Point road. We turned left on Bold Point Rd and followed it to Surge Narrows Road. Turned left there and it was only a short distance to

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the bridge crossing the lake narrows. We followed a path next to the phone booth on the left until we found a rocky outcropping we found very private for nude swimming. Water was very warm and we had a wonderful time. Upon our return to the ship we departed for Heriot Bay where we purchased gas and filled up with water. Rick docked the boat nearby and joined CA at the grocery store. CA had met Jim and Lou there and we had a brief talk. At the dock we ran into Mark and Valerie onboard the Valerie J people CA met in Booker Lagoon while prawning. The Valerie J stayed at dock to charge her batteries (because Mark's alternator wasn't working). We left the dock for Gorge Harbour where we decided to anchor in 60 ft of water to right of the entrance. Good holding ground and peaceful water. On a shore trip with Kona we found a nice trail that is road width that we think might lead to Anvil Lake if we continued to follow it. Another day.

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Saturday, August 21	<u>Anchorage:</u> Gorge Harbour	<u>Weather:</u> Rain heavy at times
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It rained lightly overnight but as the day went on it turned to heavy rain most of the day. It was a great break from the hot weather. Rick worked on a slide show while CA made Clam Chowder soup. Afterwards we put on our foul weather gear with umbrella and putted over to the government dock and neighbouring store. The meat turned out to be very expensive there \$17 per steak so we got a refund. On our return we explored the popular anchorage in front and found

the Surf Scooter on a mooring buoy and Mark and Valerie on the Valerie J who had just anchored earlier that day. Valerie took our picture in the rain after a short talk. It was clam chowder soup and cheese bread when we returned to the FnC. The home made clam chowder soup was delicious although CA thought it was crowded with too many vegetables.

Sunday, August 22	<u>Anchorage:</u> Gorge Harbour	<u>Weather:</u> Cloudy, mostly sunny during the day
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Today we decided to stay another day and visit Manson's Landing. On our way out of Gorge Harbour, the metal hinge on the Rib hull plug broke. We had to run back with CA holding the plug, use a rag for a temporary plug and then Rick fixed it with a better bolts and nut. We got off again and dropped a prawn trap in front of Mansions Landing along with other traps. We tied up at the government dock and walked along the lagoon and then up and across a road to Hague Lake. There we found a nude beach around the corner where we swam nearby. Water was warm and clear. Brown sugar beach sand. Regretfully we didn't bring our lunch but we had it on a picnic bench at Mansions' Landing. The traps had poor production – eight prawns in total.

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Monday, August 23	<u>Anchorage:</u> Sturt Bay, Texada Island	<u>Weather:</u> Cloudy with occasional sunny breaks
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Travel this morning to Texada with a one to two foot chop that we took on our bow except when we turn the corner from Quadra and headed past Hernando Island. Arrived at Texada and found that the intended anchor spot was not smooth enough. The waves from Malaspina Strait were finding their way in. We decided to dock at the Vananda Boat Club. We later spoke to the wharfinger and her husband about trails to the lakes nearby and got general information about the store and hotel near by. The cost for the moorage was \$20 including power.

Fish n Chip Cruising News #11

Hi there,

“Where there’s a will there’s a way” or it pays to be a stubborn bull-dog. In our last news we were disappointed to be stopped at a “NO TRESPASSING” sign leading to Village Bay Lake. According to my pretty picture book this lake and the one adjoining it, Main Lake, “together comprise the largest freshwater waterway within any of the Gulf or Discovery Islands.” I had to go there. The next morning I looked at several books and the charts and insisted there was another way to get there – by road. After the Captain returned from shore duty with Kona he reported that he had found the road (which later turned out to be someone’s driveway) and we were off to the lakes. We walked about twenty minutes and found Village Bay Lake and a trail that took us to a very secluded rocky outcropping where we proceeded to have a most refreshing swim. The lake was very warm and clear. Well worth the extra time and effort to find it.

After our swim we returned to the FnC and made our way to Heriot Bay, on the east side of Quadra Island near Rebecca Spit, for groceries and water. From there we left and anchored in Gorge Harbour on Cortes Island. The water there is very deep but we found a nice anchorage away from the marina in a secluded bay. Tons of oysters and clams on the shore line. We spent two days there, one of which was a rainy day. We decided to go out for a putt around the harbour and go to the nearby store at the marina. We dressed in our rain gear and the captain took his umbrella. While we were out the rain decided to go from a shower to a downpour. It was okay though because, although it was wet it was really warm out. We went to the store and I bought some veggies, fruit, and two pork steaks wrapped in brown paper – no price. Rick went in the store to pay while I held Kona. He came out after purchasing our things and reported that each of the steaks for \$17.00!! Well, I returned to the till and was promptly issued a refund for the steaks but at the same time informed that “Steaks are always expensive during barbeque season!” We had clam chowder soup instead. Great on a rainy day!

A short distance from our anchorage is Manson’s Landing Marine Park. It isn’t great for anchoring because it’s quite open but there is a small government dock there. We took the Catch-Up over there and tied up to the dock. There is also a lake and hike at this location that we wanted to see. It was a great trail along a salt-water lagoon and then a short walk through the woods to Hague Lake. What a beautiful sandy beach there! The sand resembled brown sugar in its consistency and was still slightly damp from the downpour the day before. Again we had found a beautiful lake to swim in! Closest thing to the South Pacific I’ve seen in a while. We swam around awhile, laid out on the beach, and walked back to the dock and had a picnic lunch over-looking the sea. Great day.

We left the next day for Texada Island. There is a small community called Vananda and we have never been there before so that was our next anchorage – Sturt Bay. Texada The island is thirty

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miles long and on its east side there are precious few safe anchorages. We had a great day for cruising with sun and a breeze. The winds were from the southeast and by the late afternoon were starting to make the water quite choppy. We got to our destination and found that the waves were coming into the area we had planned to anchor in so we tied up to the “Vananda Boat Club” docks and enjoyed a peaceful, calm night behind their breakwater. The wharfinger came and collected \$20.00 for the slip, water, and power. She and her husband were full of information about the surrounding trails and lakes that we might be interested in seeing. We took Kona out walking after supper and explored the nearby “town” area. Very quite place with nice views of the ocean. Not much beach area - mostly steep cliffs. Marble Bay is just around the corner from Sturt Bay and apparently, according to my pretty picture book, the high quality marble from this place was used in the construction of the old Hotel Vancouver and many other Vancouver and Victoria buildings.

We are making our way slowly homeward. We will be in touch

Fish’N Chips
OUT

Tuesday, August 24	<u>Anchorage:</u> Sturt Bay, Texada Island	<u>Weather:</u> Cloudy with some sunny periods. Sprinkling rain at times
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The winds from the southeast blew through the night and were predicted to ease in the morning so after breakfast we headed for Musket Marine Park in Blind Bay on Nelson Island. As we got out of the protection of the bay we realized that the waves were not to our liking. After about a half hour the Captain told CA she could turn back if she wanted to so she immediately did.

The four foot waves were outside our comfort range. We tied up to the same spot and went to explore the islands. We tried to find Priest Lake but were unsuccessful but did have a good walk anyway. We tried to go to Turtle Lake as well but found ourselves going around in circles. When we returned to the FnC we spoke to several boaters who had just reached the dock and they told us the weather was still bad out there and they were glad to be tied up.

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Wednesday, August 25	<u>Anchorage:</u> Sturt Bay, Texada Island	<u>Weather:</u> Cloudy some sunny breaks
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The wind came up again in the night and the boat was rocking even at the dock. It also poured rain. We went walking again after breakfast and bought a few groceries and picked some blackberries and apples for up and coming desserts. We decided to wash the boat, inside and out, in preparation for our rendezvous with the Bonus Points. All the boaters at the dock were anxious to move on but the weather was not allowing it. The weather was predicted to

ease tomorrow morning so we intend to shove off early tomorrow.

Thursday, August 26	<u>Anchorage:</u> Secret Cove	<u>Weather:</u> Cloudy some sunny breaks
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We got up to the alarm clock at 0600 and were away at 0625. The water was rippled and the travel to Secret Cove was pleasant. We arrived at 1030 and had the Bonus Points on cell phone with their location and ETA. They arrived at 1330 and the festivities began. We decided to go drop our prawn traps and conduct the "Prawn Off". After dropping the traps we took Kona to Turnabout Island for a walk and then

went around the south side of the island which is passable at high tide. Met with "Tim and

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Slyvia” in their dingy. They are staying in a cabin between Secret Cove and Pender and were out exploring. They said they might visit with us tomorrow and show us their Great Dane. Happy Hour on the BP and a lovely pork chop dinner. Coffee/ice-cream and Pink Titty dessert was a great finish to a great meal. The girls turned in at 2230 and the Captain of the FnC convinced the Captain of the BP to stay up and continue the merriment.

Friday, August 27	<u>Anchorage:</u> Secret Cove	<u>Weather:</u> Cloudy some sunny breaks, some rain
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After breakfast it was decided that it was too rainy to venture out kayaking so we relaxed and had an inside day. The Captain went to shore and bought a bilge pump and a walk with Kona and Mark. CA spent the day preparing dinner and dessert for tonight. The bilge pump was installed. The Cheerio was expected on scene at 2000. Tim and Sylvia stopped by to show us their dog “Taw” which is Gaelic for big, black, marble. He weighted 170 pounds and was black with a white chest. Kona was interested in him but only from a

distance. Taw did not board the FnC. Soon after the Cheerio was heard hailing on the radio and the excitement began to build. We ate oyster appetizers while we waiting for him to appear. He arrived, Mark was put on his boat as crew for the rafting and the rest of us helped tie him up. Then the Captain of the FnC and the Captain of the BP took the Cheerio’s anchor in the Catch-Up and dropped it off his bow. It was rather tense at one point as the throttle was turned in the wrong direction and Mark lost his footing and let the anchor drop off the side. Unauthorized anchor dropping not to mention unorthodox procedure!! Dinner on the FnC and all were full and enjoying the company. Slide show of the Bonus Points holiday followed.

Saturday, August 28	<u>Anchorage:</u> Secret Cove	<u>Weather:</u> Cloudy, some sun,10-20 kt southerlies
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We went fishing with Mark and April on the Bonus Points for the afternoon. We caught nothing and Mark lost 2 canon balls and a bunch of downrigger cable. He lost the 2nd canon ball by using old corroded downrigger cable in the deeper layers. Gerry picked up his buddy Benjamin. We got together later that night for dinner, a slide show and dance party on the FnC. Everyone quit at a decent time after but the Captain (named Swivel Hips by Mark) was still raring to go.

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Sunday, August 29	<u>Anchorage:</u> Secret Cove	<u>Weather:</u> Sunny in the afternoon, 10-20 kt southerlies.
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We went to the beach and met Jerry's new four lady passengers. Apparently they are all his ex's. It was quite the show case. Gerry stayed in buccaneer bay. We returned to the FnC in Secret Cove.

Monday, August 30	<u>Anchorage:</u> Richmond Marina	<u>Weather:</u>
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Capt Rick got up the next morning early and was almost tempted to get everyone up to leave before the southerlies picked up for the day but decided not too since the forecast didn't seem too bad. We left about noon for Richmond. The waves didn't get greater than 2 ft and across from Howe Sound the sea gradually calmed to flat. One can only surmise that the front had a least effect in southern waters. We tied up at Richmond Marina (permission granted by Ian). CA was picked up by her girlfriend Margo who drove her to Nadean's new place where later Dianne drove her home to Mission. Rick walked Kona, met some of the gang and went to bed early.

August 31 to Sept 3	<u>Anchorage:</u> Shelter Island Boat Yard	<u>Weather:</u> Sun and Rain at times
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Rick left Richmond Marina the next afternoon after getting some paint supplies from Canadian Tire. He arrived just in time before the yard closed. As a result we spent the night in the harness. CA had arrived early and



visited Jimmy Ayott and company. Jim left around late afternoon testing out his gear box with friends on board. His neighbours said that he wouldn't be back

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until slack tide for maximum safety for docking his boat. We left the Catch-up with his next door neighbor “Marty”. Later that evening we visited him and had a couple of beers.

The next day we spray washed the hull, sanded the sides and painted all in one day. The next day we added coats. We decided not to do any work on the swim grid because of the continued moist conditions. On Friday morning we were easily ready for a early morning lift before the yard shut down for the Labour Day long weekend.

August 31 to Sept 3	<u>Anchorage:</u> Shelter Island Boat Yard	<u>Weather:</u> Sun and Rain at times
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Last Cruising News for this Trip

Hi there,

We ended up stuck at Texada Boat Club docks for three days. The winds were blowing hard and the water was too rough. Several boats came into the dock and reported that it was ugly out there. After two days I said to the Captain let's go and we headed out. After a half an hour of four foot waves he told me it was okay to turn back which I promptly did! We waited one more day and there was a window of calm seas if we left at 630 am so off we went. We were meeting our friends Mark and April in Secret Cove that day so had to get moving.

We arrived at Secret Cove on Thursday with the sea only a slight ripple. The weather wasn't great though – mostly cloudy and even a bit of rain at times. We met with Mark and April, had a great welcome home dinner together and made plans for what we were going to do for the next several days before heading back to Richmond.

The next morning another friend of Mark and April's, Jerry and one of his friends, joined us and we had to have another celebration dinner. Rick was very entertaining that night! Mark has now named him “Captain Swivel Hips” because of his interesting dancing throughout the night. We were all having a great time and our laughter was filling the cove.

We had planned to go kayaking but the weather was lousy so we took a tour in the Catch-Up around a small island (Turnabout) and took Kona off for a walk there. We dropped a prawn trap in the area while we were at it but got nothing. Now that we were back in the more populated areas everything was going to be less abundant or inedible, like the shell fish in the area.

We met a couple who were staying in a cabin nearby who were from England and Germany and had a huge dog. They later came over to let Kona meet their dog.

We went out on Mark and April's boat one day to fish but caught nothing. It actually turned out to be a bad trip in that Mark lost two down-rigger cannon balls and much of his down-rigger cable. I was driving at the time so the “evil eye” was temporarily cast my way because I wasn't minding the depth sounder and the rigging got snagged on the bottom. “Oops, sorry Mark!” He put his spare cannon ball down and lost that too – not my fault this time.

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We left Secret Cove on Monday and the weather was not great but I'm happy to say it improved as we went along. As we approached Vancouver and the river I began to pout! I was leaving the ocean and I didn't like it.

We left the ocean and into the river we went. Rick dropped me off at Richmond Marina and I got a ride home and picked up the car to meet Rick the next day at Shelter Island. The Fish'N Chips was being hauled out of the water and a new paint job was to be given.

We lived in the air in a dry dock parking lot for the next three nights. Not a problem except Kona couldn't climb from the skinny swim grid into the boat and we had to use the shipyard's porta-potties. Yuck!!! Kona slept in the car at night which she didn't mind too much. We had the boat power-washed. We were surprised to see how many barnacles grew on the bottom in just two months. We sanded the bottom, taped the sides and slapped on three coats of paint. The FnC looks spiffy!

My boys, Peter and David, came to the shipyard to welcome us home with a couple of their friends. We had a barbeque and showed them some of the pictures that didn't get sent out by e-mail. We have to be careful with our audience. We have over one thousand pictures and we have discovered that people typically have about a twenty minute attention span watching pictures and listening to my commentary.

They put the FnC back in the water Friday morning. We took off for the Gill Netter Pub Dock (off Mary-hill By-pass in Coquitlam) and arrived there about 1:00 and prepared for a visit from Mark and April. We had dinner in the pub and Mark stayed over to accompany us the rest of the way up the river today. The weather is not very good. A sunny ride would have been much more pleasant but I guess it helps to go back to work when the weather's lousy. That way I don't feel like I'm missing as much.

We are almost home now. We are right across from Whonnock and should be home in Mission in about an hour. We're having another celebration dinner tonight and a toast to the Captain of the Fish'N Chips for bringing his wife, dog and boat home without incident. We are back safely from our first anniversary cruise and are looking forward to the next one, ten months from now. Can't wait!

FishNChips

OUT

Friday, Sept 3	<u>Anchorage:</u> Gill-netter Dock	<u>Weather:</u> Sun and Rain at times
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As somehow agreed we met Mark and April at the Gill-netter where we had dinner at the restaurant. April left Mark with us and return home. Next morning we took Mark up the river to Mission where April would drive in for an over night stay in their van.

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Saturday, Sept 4	<u>Anchorage:</u> Mission Harbour	<u>Weather:</u> Sun and Cloud
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The current never did give in on our way up the river. The height was high all the way. It was probably because of the recent rains. When we arrived near the dock we noticed that Andy's Criscraft was still in our spot. We pulled in on the outside dock and 2 hours later we moved into our usual spot after Andy and the captain discussed a spots with Janet the Harbour Master.

