

# Xmas '05 Trip Log

Dates	Destinations	Start Hours:	End Hours:
Dec 16-24, 2005	Steveston, Degnen Bay	886	908

**Remarks:**

**Friday: Dec. 16/05**

Peter on board.

Set out down the river at 930. Joan, Alec and Ben were there to see us off. Sea Foam slipped by all the boats easily as we backed out of our slip. The sun was shining without a cloud in the sky and it was a glorious day! CA prepared for the dinner party tonight in Steveston. New GPS works great with Nobeltec. We traveled at 2000 RPMs and did about 8.5 knots the whole way. Phone calls from Mark and Running Bear on route. Called ahead to Steveston Harbour Authority for a spot on the dock at the market place. Arrived 1430. Captain took Kona for a stroll, Peter and CA watched a video while CA prepared the finishing touches on dinner. Guests started arriving at 1800. Mark and April, Peter Barton, Brandon and Adam (Peter's buddies) Frank and Susan. Party was fun with lots of good food and cheer. Last guests (Mark) departed at 2330. We walked our guests back to their car and spoke to two very pleasant older ladies on the dock about our boat and living aboard. On our return the Captain cleaned up the mess and retired.

**Saturday: Dec. 17/05**

Another beautiful morning!! The trip across was wonderful – just a ripple. The 630 weather report had talked about gales but it was not mentioned at the 1030 report. We decided to go over to Pirates Cove for a hike around because we missed the dive time then on to Degnen to anchor. Had an afternoon nap, watched a video, had supper and retired by 2200.

**Sunday: Dec. 18/05**

Weather has changed for the worse. It is now cloudy and rainy but it is warm again. We don't know what's worse, freezing cold nights with condensation everywhere or warmer temperatures with no sun. Took the Catch-Up to Silva Bay and laid a prawn trap in front of Carlos Island, our usual spot. Went from there to the Silva Bay store and got some groceries and \$3.50 worth of chicken necks and backs for our crab trap. Rick took Kona walking and inquired about docking fees and was told the off season rate for a 40 footer was \$36.00. No go. We thought it was only \$10 a night which would be close to the same price as running the generator all night. Rolly polly seas outside of Silva but no white water crashing against Thrasher Rock. Returned to Sea Foam and put a crab trap down at the entrance to Degnen Bay – our usual spot. Made ready to dive at Breakwater Island at 1230. Returned, had Scuba Diver's soup and rested. Had dinner, watched a video, retired, read and went to sleep. Very busy day.

**Monday: Dec. 19/05**

Weather continues to be stormy with mix of rain, cloud and a little sun. We walked to Drumbeg Park up the trail from the ramp and then did some reading on our return. Met up with the Harbour Master and he informed us that we were in "violation" on two counts. One – locking up our tender and two - tying up at a loading area. After a friendly banter with him I told him he should forgive us because there was not signage indicating where or where not to tie up. He agreed and said he hadn't put the signs back up since he recently painted the dock. Checked our prawn trap and had 83 prawns in the condos. On our return we stopped to check the crap trap and found three crabs wanting to come home with us.

### **Tuesday: Dec. 20/05**

Had a leisurely breakfast and made ready soon after to dive at Josef Point at 1230. On our return two hours later we had Scuba Diver's soup and a rest. Rainy and cloudy but there are periods when the sun peeks out and the rain lets us out for a stroll with Kona. Checked our crab traps on our return from the dive to find three more legal sized Dungeness. Prepared dinner, cooked crabs, watched a video and retired to read in bed.

### **Wednesday: Dec. 21/05**

We continue to listen to the weather forecast hoping for an opening to cross the Strait. There is still a Gale warning and the winds are not good for a crossing. Took another walk up the trail and this time went along the road that rims the bay on the east side hoping to end up at the far side of Drumbeg Park. We found a house that sells farm fresh eggs on that road but none for sale today. Took another trip to Silva Bay and pulled our prawn traps up as we anticipate making a dash across the Strait tomorrow. Found 123 prawns in the condos this time. Went into Silva Bay store again and got a few things needed for Christmas Eve dinner on the dock in Mission. Also filled up Catch-Up's fuel tank at the gas dock.

### **Thursday: Dec. 22/05 – Coward's Cove**

Woke up to a very stormy morning. Kona insisted on getting out early which is unusual so CA took her off right away. The wind was screaming into the bay along the Pass and into the head of the bay where the derelict sailboats are anchored. CA stood there and the wind wanted to push her over. When she got back to the boat the wind was still whipping through and when we looked in the binoculars the water over by De Courcy Island in Pylades Channel was all white caps that looked like a flock of white swans about to take off. Weather report revised at 1130 to upgrade to storm warning. It appeared to us that the "storm" had already ripped through. The sun came out and the blue sky came through. We walked over to Drumbeg park again to check out the water out in the Strait. Things were bumpy but the wind was calming. We went along the trail that over looks Gabriola Pass at Josef Point and found the road there to lead us back to the park entrance and more of a full circle walk. After we got back to the Sea Foam we decided to make a break for it. CA was closely monitoring the weather forecasts and the winds were lessening but the storm warning still had her spooked. We set out at 1530 and had a bumpy ride. The sea was 4-5 feet and we were taking the waves on our starboard beam. CA stayed with Kona in the saloon reclined on the bench seat while the Captain sat in his pilot house with "Auto" the pilot steering our course. The Sea Foam handled very well. She rolls over to one side and then straight back up again without rolling back to the other side again. We arrived in Coward's Cove at 1730 and relaxed. Everything was in place. No cupboards thrown open. Only the kayaks shifted a bit on

the upper deck. Mark and April had left a message for us so we called back and they have planned dinner for us at Gill Netter pub tomorrow night. Mark is going to pick up Peter in Lonsdale and bring him along with them. Our plan to pick up in Ladner was changed because we didn't want to fight Sand Heads with the weather conditions being what they were.

**Friday: Dec. 23/05**

Cloudy, light wind, no rain today. After a Kona walk and a breakfast of eggs benedict we headed out at 1030. Tide is rising now so we are riding the current up to the Gill Netter. Talked with Kodiak on the radio and slowed down at the River Rock Casino to say a quick hello to him there. He is now caretaking the "Iron Horse" that a couple from Calgary bought. The new owners have asked Kodiak to do some work on it and look after it while they are not around. The old owner bought a 45 Bayliner pilot house – the "Skookum".

**Saturday:**

Home by mid afternoon

**Sea Foam Schedule:**

Friday:

Depart Mission: 930

Arrive Steveston: 1430

Saturday:

0910 – depart Steveston

1140 – arrive Gabriola Pass

1250 - arrive Pirate's Cove

1340 – depart Pirate's Cove

1410 – arrive Degnen Bay

Thursday

1530 – depart Degnen Bay

1745 – arrive Coward's Cove

Friday

1030 – depart Coward's Cove

1400 – arrive Gilnetter Dock

Saturday

1030 – depart Gilnetter

1400 – arrive Mission

**Weather:**

Friday: Sunny all day, 6 C but cold at night.

Saturday: Sunny all day, 6 C but cold at night

Sunday: Sunny all day and then cloudy and warmer into the night

Monday: rain showers but warmer, storm brewing in the south a little wind here

Tuesday: rained last night storm still brewing in the south, rain stopped during our dive in the afternoon

Wednesday: rain and warm 10 deg C. Stopped for a while in the afternoon while we pulled our prawn traps.

Thursday: Cleared in the early afternoon and clouded around 1500

Friday: Overcast all day.

Saturday: Fog patches otherwise overcast.