

Seagate and Wild Blue Alaska Cruise – May 1, 2008

Seagate and Wild Blue left Anacortes, WA today at 6:00AM for a 3-month Alaska Cruise. The crews enjoyed mostly flat seas, a cloudy morning, light rain and a sunny afternoon while cruising to Bedwell Harbor on Pender Island, and Nanaimo on Vancouver Island, a 71-mile leg.

Last minute provisioning was completed Monday when just about 1800 gallons of diesel were tanked between the two boats.

Seagate is an Offshore 54 yacht with two BIG Caterpillar diesels and can cruise up to 22 knots (25 mph). She's skippered by Dick and Harriett Squire of Malibu who have boated for over 40 years. Wild Blue is



a Selene 53 trawler with a single Cummins diesel and cruises at 9 knots (10 mph). Owners Alex and Pat Benson of San Luis Obispo have boated for over 30 years. The boats and their crews are traveling together for the cruise.

Joining Seagate as crew for the first week up to Bella Bella, BC are Bill and Jody Stump of Venice, CA. Both are accomplished boaters and long-time friends from California Yacht Club.

(← Dick and Harriett Squire on left with Jodi and Bill Stump on the right)



This week's Wild Blue crew are Willie and Walter Benedetti of Bodega Bay and Petaluma.

(←Willie and Walter Benedetti, Pat and Alex Benson)

The Benedetti's are turkey ranchers and travel with product: they arrived with a cooler full of turkey sausage, turkey bacon, smoked turkey, smoked duck, smoked chicken,

etc. No worries: there is enough for future crews to enjoy. You've seen their Willie Bird Turkeys in the Williams-Sonoma catalog or on the FOOD TV Network. Check out www.williebird.com to order your very own. Walter Benedetti, Willie's dad, turns 90 years old next Thursday, May 8th while we're in Bella Bella, BC. We hope we can find enough candles for the cake! This is Walter's third cruise on the Wild Blue.



(←Seagate and Wild Blue at Canadian Customs, Bedwell Harbor, Pender Island, with Poets Cove Resort in the background.)

Always remember your passport! Unfortunately Alex left his in the car at Anacortes. But Oh Canada... they just love those US dollars, passport or not! We don't think it will be as easy getting back into the USA.



(← Seagate has lots of toys aboard including 2 kayaks, 2 inflatable boats and a rowing dinghy!)



(← Wild Blue leaves Bedwell Harbor after “successful” Canadian Customs Clearance.)

After our Nanaimo arrival, crews visited BC liquor and stocked up on Wisers Canadian Whiskey, among other beverages. Wisers is known for excellent trading value in and around the BC waters. This was confirmed on Wild Blue's "poker cruise" last summer: barely 1/3 bottle was traded for 4 batches of fresh prawns and an octopus!

Best of all, today, May 1st, was the opening day for spot prawning here in British Columbia. Of course the boats were selling large, live prawns on the dock here in Nanaimo. We bought 16 pounds between the two boats. Pictures tomorrow after "prawn dining" in Campbell River.