

Seagate and Wild Blue Alaska Cruise – Thursday, June 5, 2008



Alex woke up early, after all, these days its getting daylight at 4:30AM. We quietly raised anchor and departed Meyers Chuck for Santa Anna Inlet, just over 20 miles away.

(← *WB in Santa Anna Inlet.*)

We immediately turned right and cruised up Earnest Sound towards Seward Passage. Santa Anna Inlet, at the south end of the Passage, is serene and picturesque with beautiful green trees and streams running into the bay.

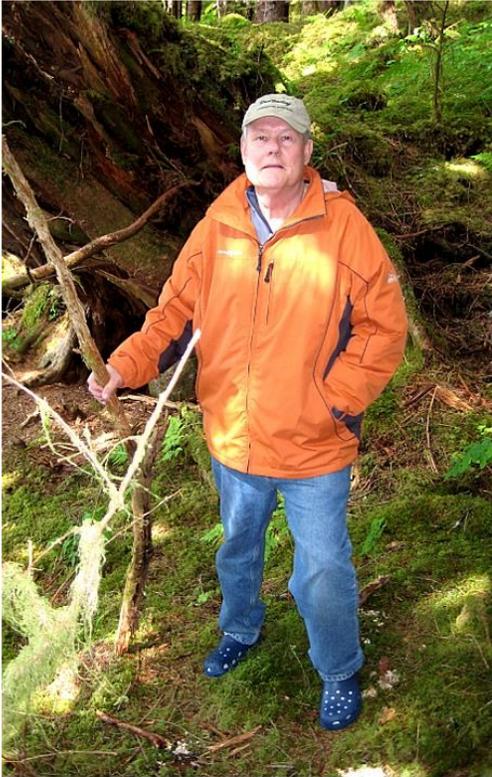


(← *The Inlet has multiple gurgling streams that empty into it, music to our ears after days of motor hum.*)



In fact it reminds us so much of Yes Bay. Well no wonder, after three days and 94 miles of cruising, we're just 4 miles across the Cleveland Peninsula from Yes Bay!

(← *WB crew stands guard just offshore in case bears attack!*)



So far there are no other boats in the Inlet, it's like we're the first humans to examine it closely. A dinghy exploration shows us the shoreline consists of dense forest. No docks, paths, or trails. We go ashore but can't penetrate more than 10 feet inland, before being stopped by the thick vegetation. Are we really the first humans to visit?

*(← Just a few feet inland, Sid, the great bear hunter, grabs a weapon in case of attack.)*

As we examine the shoreline and peer into the deep, dank forest, every decayed stump looks like a bear den. Even if we are the first humans, bear fear has gripped the WB crew. Just then we notice signs of past lives in the Inlet.



*(There just must have been someone here before us. A mill, a still or a maybe Buffalo Bill was here. →)*

*(This is a unique looking native artifact found on a large boulder at the high tide line in Santa Anna Inlet. →)*





Once we realize we weren't the first, we had to come to grips with our bear fear. The ship's apothecary aboard WB prescribed two shots each of "Bear Fear Medicine." We always follow doctors (or apothecaries) orders, and soon our fears subsided.

(← *When ordered to take your medicine, don't argue.*)

Later in the day, we dropped our hook (fishing hook) and received no bites. Being out of Willie Bird duck breasts, we forced to make do with BBQ bacon wrapped beef filet, twice baked potatoes, fresh arugala salad (Pat trimmed the garden) and 2005 Aaron Petite Syrah from Paso Robles. Life's rough in rugged Alaska.

Tomorrow we head for Wrangell to rendezvous with Seagate. They've been there for four days, seeing the sights, tasting the restaurants, visiting the museums, and watching the bears at the Anan Bear Reserve. The Wild Blue crew is not going bear watching.



(← Bacon wrapped beef filets do not attract swimming bears.)