

Tondelayo's Voyage

Bahia de Los Angeles, Puerto Refugio, and Puerto Penasco

Jun 24 - July 16, 2002

	See Map - press your browser <i>back</i> button when finished.
June 24-25	Caught up to Seahorse in Pueblo Los Angeles on the west side of Bahia de Los Angeles (BLA). Went out to eat, and had a few beers with Joe, it was his last night here. The next day, started provisioning, got Laundry done and hung explored the town. Pat left with Joe to get a ride out to the main highway, 42 miles. Then Joe was planning to flag down a bus, or hitch a ride.
June 26-27	Got more provisions, including some block ice and sailed up to Isla Ventana in the middle of BLA. Went snorkeling the next day, got a few fish, but not really much around besides Opaleye. Decided to shoot a couple stingrays, we heard that they are quite tasty. They were, but there just seems to be something strange about eating rays. Moderate winds at night, maybe gusts of 20 knots.
June 28	More Elefantos predicted, so we sailed over to Puerto Don Juan, a very protected anchorage. Due to the high tides, and hard packed, slow sloping beach, people have careened their boats here. Got a ton of clams the next morning.
June 29 - July 1	Left Puerto Don Juan, and sailed a nice close reach in 12-15 knots over to Este Ton, on Isla Angel la Guardia. The swell was rolling right in the tiny Anchorage, so we turned around and sailed back over to Isla Coronado (or Smith) and anchored between it and nearby Isla Mitlan at the north end of BLA. Went snorkeling one day and Lisa shot a big hogfish. The next day we went and hiked up the Volcano, a 1550 foot climb up a steep climb. Pretty brutal so we rested in the afternoon.
July 2-3	Left Isla Coronado and had a short sail up to Ensenada Alcatraz. The wind was about 10-12 knots by mid afternoon and Alcatraz was a huge anchorage, so I decided to sail onto the anchor. It worked beautifully, and the anchor set well. Around dark, the wind began to pick up, and did not let up for a couple days. They call this an Elefante, but it is basically the same mechanism as a Santana. The wind was hot and dry, about 95 degrees, all night long, but a nice breeze, like 25 -30 knots. Not much sleep that night. On the 3rd, we went over to the beach and did some dingy repair, and then went foraging and got some scallops. More wind and little sleep again.
July 4	Left Ensenada Alcatraz in the morning with about 15-18 knots of wind. I was pushing Tondelayo hard downwind under full sail making 7-8 knots. Set a new record of 8.6 knots. Wind continued to increase (21-25 knots), so I started reefing, until I was down to a double reefed main and staysail, making about 6-1/2 to 7 knots, but much more comfortably. Caught a beautiful Yellowtail, my first one. While cleaning, I discovered 29 5 inch minnows in his stomach. Sailed in variable wind conditions for about 6 hours, everything from a light breeze to near gale. Put more reefs in and out in such a short time than I can ever remember. Arrived in Puerto Refugio, and it lived up to it's name, Refuge Port. After 2 days of 15-30+ knots of wind without a break, it was nice to see flat water, and no wind. Arrived ahead of Seahorse, and put up my big Old Glory. When they arrived I cut up the Yellowtail and we had sashimi out of the belly as I trimmed everything up. Awesome. Even saved the collar for the barbecue, delicious. Steak, Fish, and Pasta for dinner, then we shot off a few expired flares. Some were really expired, like 1983. About 1 out of 3 works properly after 19 years.
July 5-12	Puerto Refugio, an interesting and lonely place. This huge, lonely bay at the top of Isla Angel la Guardia (Guardian Angel Island) has up to 12 foot tides, beautiful scenery, warm water, and tons of scallops. Spent a week8 here fishing, diving, and doing lots of boat projects. The tides here cause strong, variable currents within the bay and for miles north of the island. The striking scenery of Angel la Guardia is composed steep mountains rising to 4000 feet in the middle of the island that have been eroded to reveal the huge multi-colored sandstone cliffs which ring the anchorage. Enormous Organ Pipe cactus, as large as Giant Suarro cover the lower slopes. The entire 42 mile long, uninhabited island is waterless, host only to rattlesnakes, iguanas and their prey. :) One day while diving around the closest reef to the boat, I saw 2 octopi in a small cave. As they moved across the bottom they changed color to match the coral underneath them. They are so good at camouflage that it's

	<p>almost like watching a strange distortion in the water, only when you notice the complete shape do you realize that it is an octopus.</p> <p>Took a couple day sails, one on Tondelayo, one on Seahorse. We flew the spinnaker on Seahorse, but there was too much wind to do it when we had Tondelayo out. We did catch 7 or 8 skipjack tuna (not good to eat) while we were sailing around. One time, Pat caught a fish as the lure was drifting back out, that fastest hookup yet. We would watch other fish come up and try to steal the lure out of the mouth of the current hooked victim. Kinda funny.</p> <p>One evening, while watching for satellites, we saw a huge meteor, which covered about a 120 degree arc in the sky. Very cool.</p>
July 13-14	<p>Somewhere in the last week, I decided it would be a good idea to go to Puerto Penasco (a.k.a. Rocky Point) with Seahorse and get a ride back to the States. So, about 10am I left to head for the farthest reaches of the Northern Sea. The trip was quite eventful...</p> <p>The morning brought light wind, cloudy skies and confused seas north of the island - due to the constant tide rips. I actually got rained on for a about a minute. Clearing with variable wind in the afternoon, and but ominous cumulus clouds starting to build over the mainland. After dark, these clouds developed into Chubascos (thunderstorms) that were heading directly across my path. Winds began to build, and I began to reef, and drop sails. By midnight, I was running only under the storm jib, and making about 7 knots average speed. Top speed was over 9 knots. Seas were very steep, but not too large, maybe 6 feet. Luckily I was going downwind, but I was sailing right ahead of the front that all the storms were on. So at one point, about 3am, I was between 2 storms and tacked around and sailed behind them, to get out from in front of the line. This left me with a little more stable wind, but pretty confused seas. Not too comfortable a ride, but a fast one! Ended up slogging into Cholla bay around 9 am, an hour or so behind Seahorse. Debbie (Lisa's Sister) and Wade (boyfriend) met us on the beach, with PETE'S WICKED ALE! Nothing like a nice microbrew after 9 months of Mexican beer.</p> <p>Spent the rest of the day drinkin, and eatin!</p>
July 15	<p>Rested, and recuperated. Checked out the Marinas, and got the lay of the land.</p>
July 16	<p>Took the boats around the corner to Puerto Penasco, and into the Marina.</p>