

Tondelayo's Voyage

Puerto Penasco, a trip back to the USA, and back to Puerto Penasco

Jul 16 - Aug 16, 2002

	See Map - press your browser <i>back</i> button when finished.
July 16	Took the boats around the corner to Puerto Penasco, and into the Marina.
July 17	Heading back to the good ole U.S of A. Crossing the border was instantly obvious. The road conditions improved, there were signs, things like that. Arrived in Phoenix at Pat's sister Jan's house. Their kitchen in bigger than my boat. Maybe someday I can live in a house again.
July 18	Buying Spree! The US has great stuff, and lots of it.
July 19	Lisa found me a ride back to LA, Marina del Rey specifically. Larry L picked me up and we went to the Kings Head for some more real beer, and darts.
July 20-21	Got up early to go, yeah, get this: Sailing. Kellie and Dave took me sailing on Sweet Lorraine, their Catalina 36, and we stayed out at Little Scorpion Cove for the night and had some really nice, big ribeye steaks. Had a real nice sail on the way home.
July 22 - Aug 5	<p>Don't really remember exactly what was happening, but some highlights that I do recall, in no particular order:</p> <p>Lots of good food with Dave and Kelly, while I was staying on their boat.</p> <p>Larry's House is a media void. No TV, radio, internet, or even phone.</p> <p>Lots of shopping for esoteric things.</p> <p>A trip to Minney's Yacht Surplus. I bought 2 sails and a bunch of little things A drifter, and a blooper which has kind of a weird cut. I remember Dave saying, "How long are we going to be here? We've already been here for 4 hours!" We got to check out his uncle's Hatteras 55 on the way home. You could make a bar in the engine room it is so big. The next day we took out Sweet Lorraine and tried my new sails and Dave's Spinnaker.</p> <p>A couple trips to Hanada, the best sushi bar I've ever been to. One day Larry and I made crab cakes and took them over so they could sample some Chesapeake Bay cooking.</p> <p>Lamb dinner on Shadowfax. Julie letting me borrow her car.</p> <p>Going to work with Larry. Someone recognizing me from the website.</p> <p>The County Fair. John Belushi was not too bad. There was a horse that must have been over 3000 lbs. Biggest thing I have ever seen, like riding an elephant or something. It dwarfed the Budweiser Clydesdales.</p>
Aug 6	Stayed up and went into work with Larry. At 5 am he ran me down to downtown LA and dropped me off at the bus terminal. Definetly not for the faint of heart. These are the people that can not afford Southwest. Overall not a bad experience. For 35 bucks, and 6 hours, you get there. The worst part of the whole thing is the bus stations, and waiting in the bus station. I would not recommend it for any trips longer than, say 8 hours.
Aug 7	Last minute stuff in Phoenix, dinner with Jan while Lisa and Pat went to the Diamondbacks game.(By the way, they won.)
Aug 8	Returned to Puerto Penasco, and found the boats in fine condition, but covered with a bit of dust. Heard Bart (Booze Cruise Captain) say that the port had been closed for the last 18 days. O-kay, that seems kinda strange, I thought the north Sea of Cortez was supposed to be flat as a pancake this time of year? Well, dinner and drinks with Wade, and slept on the boat for the first time in almost a month. Boy was it hot. It is about 90+ at night when it cools off, and the humidity has kicked up a bit, so you pretty much sweat all the time. I had to start eating salt just to keep up with all the sweating. Now I think I know why they put salt on margaritas.
Aug 9	Wade picked us up in the Brewer-E, his 29 foot Sportfisher but a few miles out, he blew out the port side transmission. We did get the outriggers all hooked up and trolled back on 1 engine. While we were waiting

	for the tide to come back in so we could take the boat out, Lisa tried to catch some Cochi (triggerfish) but, no luck. Later, Debbie and Gordie showed up, so more festivities with them.
Aug 10-11	I finally got to start working on the fridge install. I needed to build a shelf for the compressor, plumb in the water supply, hook up the electrical, and install the evaporator in the icebox. Dinner at the house in Cholla Bay: Pat grilled steak, and I made a salad. Finally made it down to JJs for a few drinks. Sunday, last day that Wade and Debbie are going to be around. We borrowed the truck for provisioning, and said goodbye to the Arizonians.
Aug 12	Continuing working on the Fridge. Got the electrical hooked up and started using it. Then plumbed in the water the next day. Overall, a pretty successful boat project. No major unforeseen problems, and it got done in about 2 days. Now I have cold beer and ice cubes! It is soooo hot here in Rocky Point. I think the hottest I have ever experienced. Spent several hours jerry juggling diesel fuel over to from the fuel dock, because we did not want to tie up the the nasty thing, especially in 15 knots of cross wind.
Aug 13	Blew a water hose on the engine while I was charging the batteries. The salt water got all over the engine and shorted out the alternator, which blew up the regulator. Also, the solenoid for the starter started acting up, so I had to hand crank the engine to start it. All this early in the morning, then we went to check out of the port. We went to the usual places, Immigration, and the Port Captain, and back to Immigration. At the Port Captain, we waited several hours for him to arrive, which he never did. After watching the sweating gringos for several hours, his subordinate decided he had signature authority and signed everything for us.
Aug 14	I pulled the alternator apart, and cleaned everything out with fresh water, reassembled it and put it back in. Then I found the regulator was fubar, so I jumped around it so that the alternator was operating unregulated all the time. This is not good for the engine, batteries, or the alternator for long periods of motoring. I figured it would do, if we could just get out of here to somewhere cooler, then I would fix it. Someone on the dock told u that the port was closed due to wind. To those of us with boats that don't go anywhere without wind this is comical. There was about 15-18 knots of wind, so they were not letting any recreational boats (booze cruise, sportfishing) out of the harbor. If you left, they could tow you back and fine you. We found this very strange, but decided to go ask the Port Captain ourselves, and sure enough, "Sorry, port is closed."
Aug 15	Port was closed again today. Went and found a nice dive knife. Spent the day sweating, as usual.
Aug 16-17	Port was closed again this morning, so we walked around town to find an automotive regulator for Tondelayo, and a few other little parts. Also bought a new fillet knife. Finally got approval from Port Captain to leave, but we had to sign a waiver that said that we were fully responsible for our own actions. Puerto Penasco is definitely too close to the US of A. Anyway, left about sundown with light wind out of the SSE which put us close reaching to head for Isla San Luis, the largest of the Islas Encantadas (Enchanted Islands). Had 10-20 knot headwinds all night and pretty reasonable seas, maybe 3 feet. Lots of putting in reefs, and later shaking them back out. The day brought more of the same, and after being on 1 tack for 80 miles while crossing the sea, we had to start tacking. Ended up sailing most of the way, with a little motoring to make the anchorage by sunset. Seahorse arrived just after dark. I had a Bloody Mary, and combined with no sleep, ended up passing out cold almost immediately. Nice anchorage, but a little rolly.