

Sunday, April 11 2010

Our 2010 Alaska adventure begins soon. I have been in Canada for the last month doing boat stuff. 'Ol Crossroads has a new 200 amp alternator a fancy new Smart Regulator, new Satphone and antenna, new radar, nice fresh new coolant in all of her engines, new engine room blowers, she has been hauled, cleaned, zined and had about a zillion other repairs, upgrades and maintenance items done to her. As usual I did all of this myself so she should be a happy girl, and hopefully ready to go the distance. Diane arrived in Victoria today and we head south to Sequim, WA tomorrow. Her in the car/ferry and me on the boat. We'll spend a few days there fueling and provisioning the boat as well as installing 6 big new 8D AGM house batteries which we have to pick up in Seattle. Our friend John Marshall who lives in Sequim has found a couple of strong young guys to help me muscle them into the boat, and the old ones out.

Thanks John!! We expect to have all this stuff done by Wednesday or so and assuming the weather is OK we'll head north on Thursday.

Unfortunately, we are on a fairly tight schedule for the beginning of the trip because we have to be back in Portland, OR for Scott's college graduation. The plan is to make it to Ketchikan by May 6th at the latest so that we can fly down to the graduation the next day. This means we have 3 weeks to do 700 miles, meaning we will need to almost double our usual 40 nm/day pace to allow for weather delays and possible mechanical issues. Gales are presently blowing through the PNW region every few days and temperatures in Northern British Columbia and Alaska have been in the low to mid 30's.....pretty cold for us So. Californians.

Hopefully the weather will ease up for us soon. Since about 350 miles of the 700 miles that we need to cover is essentially through wilderness, and we will likely be traveling alone, we have few options but to make it on schedule as it would be difficult to get any kind of alternate transportation out of this area. As you can quite imagine I will be dead meat if I fail to get Diane and myself to our son's graduation!!!

If all goes well, we'll be back in Ketchikan on the 10th and we can start taking a more leisurely trip, beginning with the Little Norway Festival in Petersburg on the 14th.

Stay tuned....it's gonna be a fun summer!!!!!!

For anyone interested in following our progress here is a new, shorter, easier link to our SPOT tracking webpage. (The old one still works as well). For those not familiar with this, SPOT is a satellite tracking device that we carry aboard that we can set up to transmit our position every so often throughout the day. When you log on to the website you can see our positions over time on a map.

<http://tiny.cc/bvqzo>

Over and out for now!!

--

Stan Heirshberg
CrossRoads N50-01
currently lying Victoria, BC, Canada