

Alaska 15 July

After a gloriously sunny day Bob Berry arrived and insisted that he take me out to a nice restaurant for dinner. Unfortunately there is no restaurant in Petersburg, but Bob insisted and began an extensive exploration of the town, which took about ten minutes. So, we ate on board.

Next morning we set off for Wrangle with the plan of going to Anan Bay the day after. At the bay I dropped the hook in 100 feet of water backed up, letting out 150 feet of rode and found Pixie in 8 feet of water.

Anan Bay is a forest service wildlife viewing area. They let not more than 60 people per day into the reserve so it is quite pristine. There is a wooden board walk around the perimeter of lagoon leading to a fast running stream that cascades down from a freshwater lake. The stream is no more than 10 feet wide and is full of salmon and bear feeding on the salmon. As Bob and I walked along the stream we encountered a grizzly bear and two cubs no more than 50 feet in front of us. After talking to the ranger it dawned on us that bear was much to close for comfort.

Back to Wrangle for the night. This town is even smaller than Petersburg but it has five bars within walking distance of the marina.

Back to Petersburg and our plan for the following day was whale watching. We went about 45 miles north and in amongst the Sunshine Islands found a large pod of Humpback whales. They fed on krill and maneuvered around a drifting Pixie some of them getting within 100 feet of the boat. After the whales meandered off we headed for Portage Bay to anchor for the night. The next morning we drove Pixie into Thomas Bay to see the Baird glacier, which is a dry glacier, i.e. It doesn't calve bergs into the water. As we exited the bay we saw bergs from the La Conte glacier in the distance.

After a first day with sun and five days of rain, as Bob headed for the airport the sun began to peak timidly from behind a thick cloud cover.

