



## **Sea Dreamer Cruise 2015**

May 30

We have been cruising for about three weeks so far. Most of it very local in the San Juans. The whole San Juan cluster is only about 16 miles East and West by 17 miles North and South. We can get anywhere in a few hours, even in a slow boat. I am sending pictures of some more of my winter projects. My good friend Dave Booth lent me his garage to work in. The steps hang on the rail and sure make it easy to get on and off. We had to climb over the transom and duck the dinghy davits to get in the dinghy. Now I just pull up to the side and we can get right aboard. I did the name boards also. No I didn't do the lettering I used a graphics company in Coos Bay to cut them out of vinyl.

We stayed in Garrison Bay until after Memorial day. Karen counted 27 boats on Memorial day Saturday. We left Garrison Bay and traveled about three miles north to Stuart Island. Reid Harbor on Stuart Island is a long narrow slot about a mile and a half long and a quarter mile wide. The upper end is very well protected with access to a state park. The unfortunate part is that access is through a series of long steep ramps that have no regard to my knee. We stayed overnight and I made several trips up to the park, but one day is enough.

Jones Island is a very small island off the coast of Orcas Island. ( Doesn't that make it sound special? ) It is a nice little island with a small harbor. The whole island is a state park and has a dock and mooring buoys, first come first serve. Early in the season it is very pleasant and not too crowded. We got a space at the dock and decided to stay for a couple days. The state charges a nominal fee for the facilities. There is no water or electric at the dock so we had to run our generator some to keep our batteries up. That's kind of annoying for other people so we try to keep it to a minimum. The island is steep hills with a flat cut through the middle that is perfect for me to walk on. It is about a quarter mile across and even has benches set up along the way for wimps like me. For those who don't know, I have a bad knee and walk with a cane most of the time.

I didn't have the hardware to put the name boards up so after two days at Jones Island we went to Friday Harbor. We drilled the holes for the mounts through both sides of the bridge structure before we painted it. It is about 2 1/2 inches thick and

is hollow. I measured one of the holes and figured we needed 3 1/2 inch bolts. Of course we couldn't find the right size so I got 4 inch. They only thread the first inch of bolts so of course they were too long, and we needed to make another trip into town. We finally got the name boards up and they look good.

Going into Friday Harbor gives us a chance to fill our water tanks and get the batteries well charged. We decided to stay an extra day because small craft warnings were up on Friday. It wasn't very windy here but it was a good excuse for another day at the dock.

We are off tomorrow, I think for Blind Bay on Shaw Island for a day or two. We need to be back on Lopez Island on the 12th so we will putter around locally until then.

Pictures this time. <http://imgur.com/a/8GeVu>

Michael

The latest stuff. June 19

Blind bay is a well protected bay on the north side of Shaw Island. Shaw is the fourth largest island in the group. Being on the north side it is protected from most of the bad weather that usually comes from the south in this part of the world. The big disadvantage is that it faces a major channel between Shaw and Orcas islands. It is one of the main ferry routes up here so Blind Bay get a lot of wakes from passing boats and ferries. It is usually not too bad and it has a small general store with a dock for taking Finnegan ashore. We spent a couple days there just goofing off and watching the world go by. Karen had never been to Fossil Bay on Sucia Island. The entire island is a state park. In the 60's a group of local yacht clubs got together and raised funds to buy the island. They presented it to the state on the condition that it would remain a state park and always be open to boaters in the area. There are several small bays and anchorages and it is all a state park so you can walk anywhere you like.

We took a mooring buoy for two nights although I ended up only staying one. We took Finnegan up to the new dock that looks like it cost more than the whole island did. We had some nice walks and enjoyed being there until I got a weather forecast for gale force winds. Karen had planned to go visit her brother for a couple weeks so we were scheduled to be in Fisherman's Bay on the 13th so she could get the car and leave on the 14th. I got the weather report on the 9th for the 10th or 11th. To avoid traveling in bad weather we left Fossil Bay on the 10th. We were securely tied up to a dock when the winds hit. It really was gale force with winds up to 33 knots on my anemometer. I would not have worried about being anchored

somewhere but I hate traveling in those conditions.

### **NEWS FLASH!!**

I am in Garrison bay waiting for Karen to get back from her brothers. Before she left Finnegan had been passing stones and seemed to be having trouble so I sent Finnegan with her because it is difficult to get to a veterinarian up here. He got worse so Karen took him to be checked. It turns out that the poor guy has a massive kidney infection. The vet ran some tests and gave him IV fluids and a two week course of antibiotics. Its too soon to tell how they are working. Karen was coming back on the 24th but now thinks she will stay longer. Finnegan is too sick to travel right now.

We were leaving for Canada next week but that will be on hold until Finnegan is completely healed.

Michael

July 4

Well, we haven't been doing anything lately. We are still in Garrison Bay. Finnegan has been as sick as I have ever seen him and we didn't want to try to go anywhere. He is doing better and he finishes his antibiotic today. We have an appointment with the vet on Lopez island for Wednesday so we will go over to Fisherman's bay for that day. Once he is cleared we will go up to Canada for a few days at least as far as Nanaimo. We don't want to get too far from a veterinarian until we are sure Finnegan is healthy again. I think Desolation sound is out for this year.

It's been a hard trip, we may just write it off and go home about the first of September and try again next year. I need to see my dentist and get something done with this knee. At least we have gotten most of the painting done we wanted to do. Hopefully we will get to do some traveling this year. Garrison bay is a nice place and it has a great dock we can take Finnegan up to but we are getting tired of the same old scenery no matter how great it is.

For all my friends on the coast, it has been hotter then hell lately. Temps in the high 70s and mid 80s. Everyone that doesn't live on the Oregon coast can laugh if you want to. Seriously, it has been great weather, no rain and balmy evenings and nights. It is great to take the dinghy out and just run around in the bay about sundown.

It's the 4th of July when I am writing this, my email is down so I don' t know when I will send it. We took the dinghy around to Roche Harbor on Thursday and it was already filling up. Garrison Bay is getting kind of full and everyone is out enjoying the nice weather.

We woke up to a weird look in the sky the other day, turns out there are several fires in the area and the waters were covered in smoke and ash. We were cleaning ash off the boat all day yesterday.

I was out in the dinghy with Karen and Finnegan when I noticed a boat drifting in the bay. It was a large inflatable about 20 feet with three people in it. It had an inboard diesel engine, I had never seen anything like it until now. They couldn't get the engine started so I stopped to see if I could help. They needed a wrench so I took Karen and Finnegan back to Sea Dreamer and picked up a wrench for them. In the end nothing helped and I ended up towing them around to Roche Harbor. It was a hard tow and I could only do about three knots against the current. It took about an hour to get them pulled back to their boat. The owner gave me a bottle of wine for the help. He offered more but I didn't want anything, I would have helped anyone in trouble on the water.

We will be getting underway tomorrow early to take Finnegan to the vet for his follow up. I will try to get pictures ready for my next update.

Michael

Mid July update July 15

Pictures this time! We are in Prevost harbor on Stuart Island. It is directly north of Reid Harbor and connects to the same state park. The access is much easier here. We were in Reid Harbor earlier this trip but left because it was too much of a climb up to the park. This is the same place, and just as high, but the access is much longer so is a more gradual climb.

We were in Fossil Bay where most of the pictures were taken. We stayed on a mooring buoy set up by the park service, it costs \$15 a night. There are places to anchor in the bay but not many. We stayed a couple nights then left for Stuart Island. I hadn't been in Prevost harbor for several years so we thought we would give it a try. We looked in Jones Harbor on the way and saw a sailboat dropping a mooring so we decided to delay for a day or two. Jones Harbor is really small, there is a dock and three mooring buoys. The nice thing about Jones Island is that it is flat in the middle with a good path all the way across to the other side. I can walk on it with my bad knee without too much trouble. The park service has a three night limit on dock space and moorings so we stayed two, leaving this morning.

Prevost Harbor is on Stuart Island with the state park right in the middle. There are no roadways between the east and west ends of the island because the park takes up the whole middle of the island. Reid Harbor is on the south side and Prevost is on the north. The main reason I never liked Stuart Island when I was traveling alone is that there was no cell phone service. I had to take the dinghy all the way outside of

Reid Harbor to pick up a signal from San Juan Island. That has improved in the last year or so. Now my big objection is that climbing up from Reid Harbor is very short and steep. Prevost connects to the same place but is much easier on my knee. We were in Garrison Bay earlier in the month when there were forest fires burning on Vancouver Island and the mainland at the same time. We had a couple smoky days and the boat got covered in ash. It kind of slowed down our boat painting some. We left Garrison Bay and went up to Sucia Island. Sucia was purchased in the 60's by a consortium of yacht clubs and donated to the state park service to be used as a state park and maintained for boaters with docks and mooring buoys. One of the smaller bays is Fossil bay, very well protected from most of the winds but too small for many boats to anchor in. The park service has installed about 16 mooring buoys so we took one for a couple days. The whole island is laced with paths and hiking trails along with numerous camping locations.

We will stay at Prevost Harbor tomorrow then probably head back to Garrison Bay to finish the painting we started last year. The boat is 38 years old and the fiberglass has deteriorated to the point that everything that touched it left a stain. We have one side of the cabin left to paint and the bridge and think we can get it done in a week or so with good weather and a little effort. On the weekend of the 25th this month in English Camp, Garrison Bay there will be a group re-enacting life in the 1850s. We will stay for that and hopefully get the painting done. That's the plan anyway, Pictures!

<https://imgur.com/a/EYMXO>

Michael

Aug 4

We just got back from a short trip into Canada. We went up to Winter Cove for a few days, on the way to Todd Inlet on Vancouver Island I decided I had enough. I have a loose bridge in my mouth and it is making it very difficult to eat. I just had a crown made in Friday Harbor on the other side and I am tired of it all.

We will haul the boat out for storage this Friday and drive down to Coos Bay on Monday..

Better luck next year.

Aug 23 at 4:41 PM

We are home in Coos Bay.

On the way from Winter Cove to Todd Inlet I decided I have had enough.

We have been back for a couple weeks and I have had some dental work done and have an appointment with my knee man. My priority this winter is to get a knee replacement.

I haven't sent many pictures this year so I am including a new album, mostly random. As always read the captions.

<http://imgur.com/a/2ALAA>

Until next year,

Michael

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