

## Welcome to Perpetua's Home Page.

[Home](#)

[Photos](#)

[The Log](#)

[Links](#)

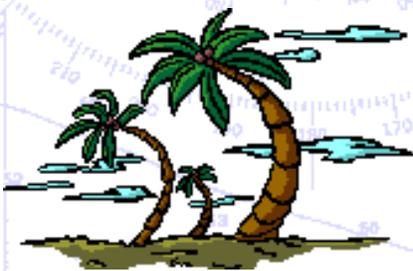
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Perpetua is a 40' Trimaran sail boat built in 1964. She was purchased by the current owner in 1975. She needed extensive refurbishing before she could be relaunched. This effort took over two years. The remaining years, until departure in 1999 were spent upgrading her and getting her and crew ready to go. The skipper was once awarded a certificate, by fellow yacht club members, for having the longest 5 year departure plan. After much perseverance the adventure began when Perpetua left her home port moorage on August 4, 1999. This is the story of that experience.

The names of the departing crew members were: Pat: the skipper, Susan: the first mate and skipperette AKA The Admiral, Patrick Jr: son of the skipper and sailor in training and Gary: a seasoned sailor and advising crew member.

# Meet The Crew Of Perpetua - Pat & Susan



How to Contact Us:

**Perpetua's Crew**



Email: [svperpetua \(at sign\)yahoo.com](mailto:svperpetua@sign@yahoo.com)

# Welcome to The Photos Page Of Perpetua's Adventure.

[Home](#)

[Photos](#)

[The Log](#)

[Links](#)

[Exit](#)

[\(Go Directly to Additional Photo TOC\)](#)

## Perpetua Sailing In the Sea Of Cortez



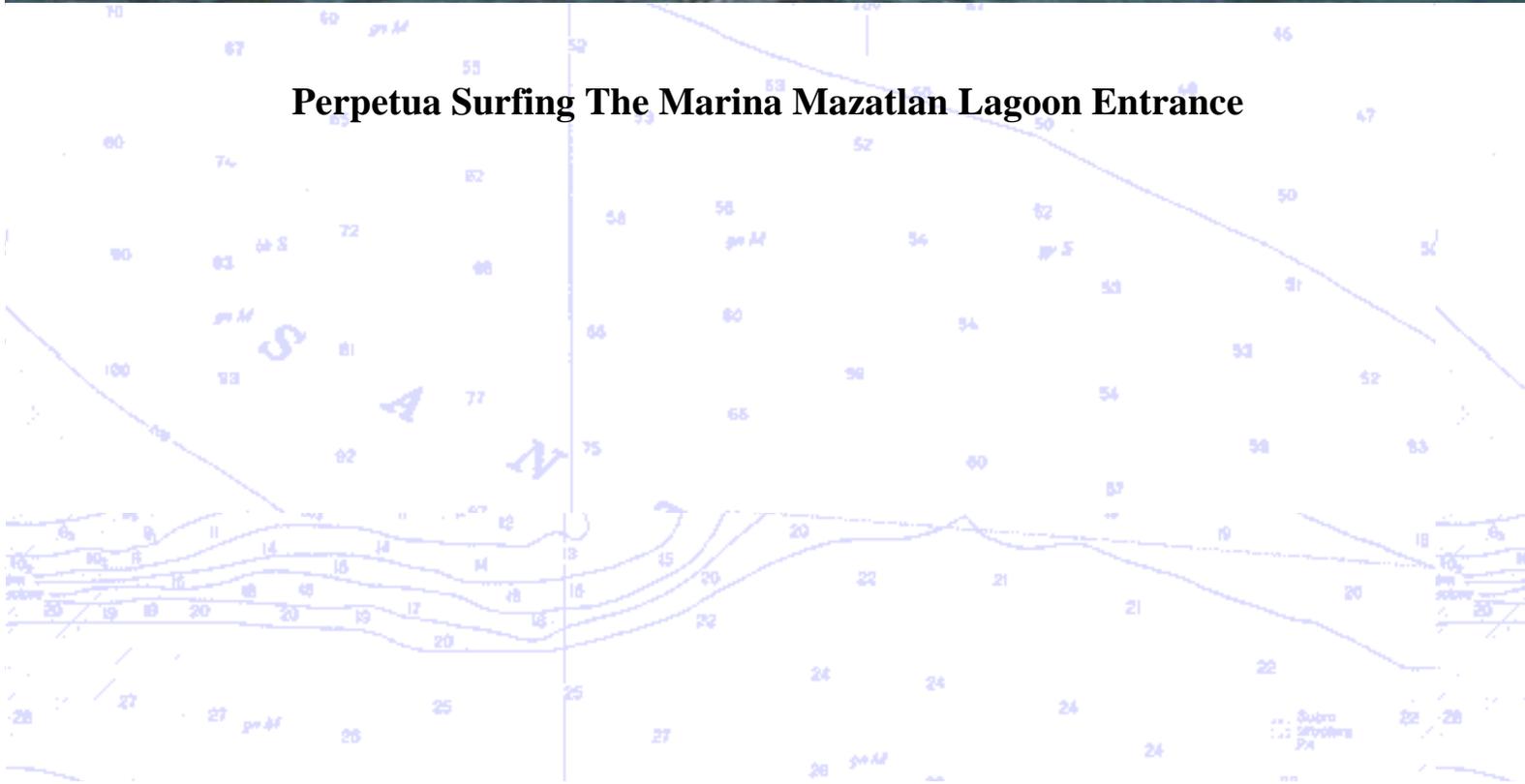
## Perpetua Under Spinnaker On Columbia River



**Perpetua Sailing in Banderas Bay Regatta**

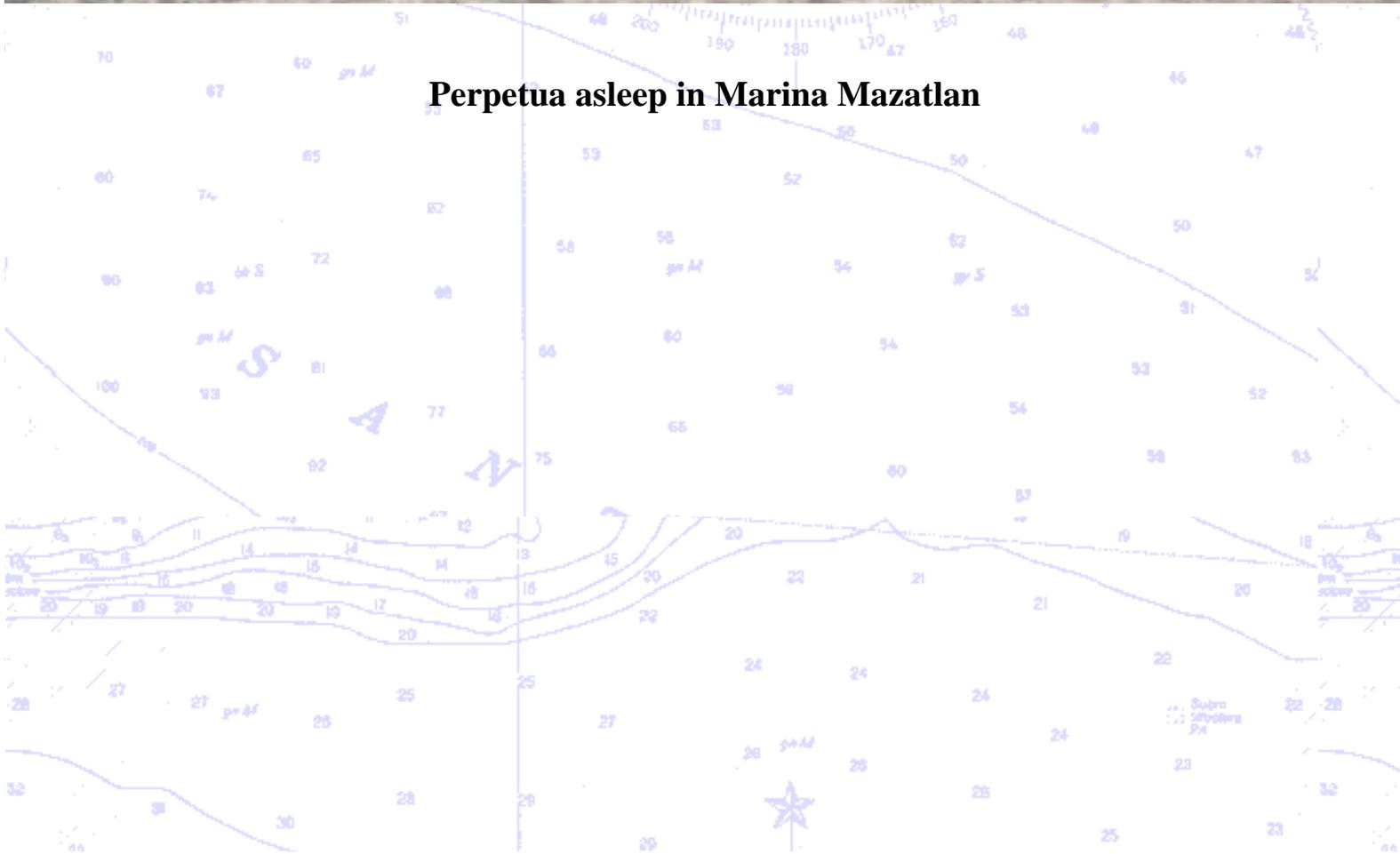


## Perpetua Surfing The Marina Mazatlan Lagoon Entrance



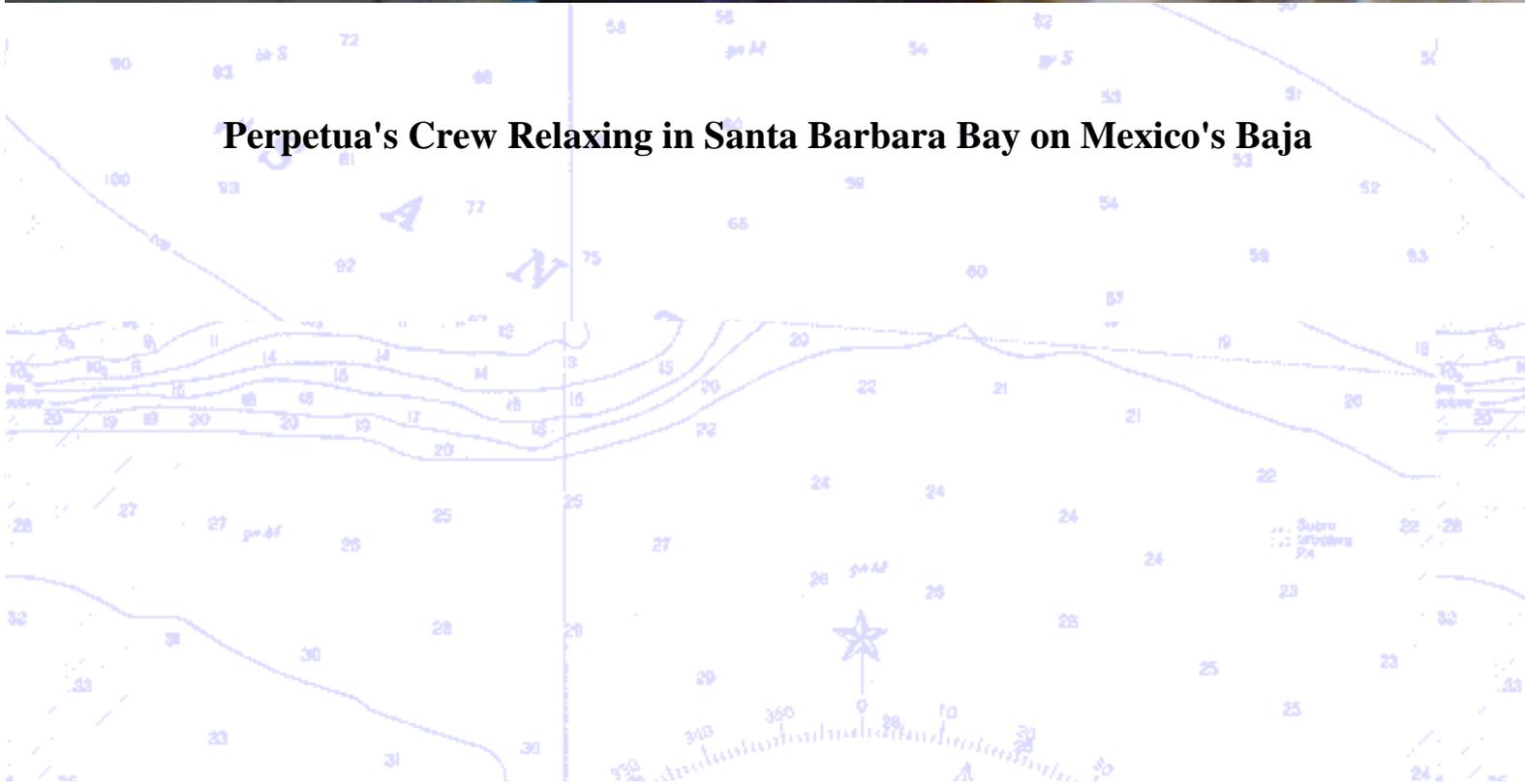


**Perpetua asleep in Marina Mazatlan**





**Perpetua's Crew Relaxing in Santa Barbara Bay on Mexico's Baja**

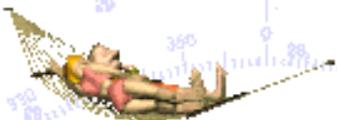




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# Perpetua's Adventure Log

[Home](#)

[Photos](#)

[The Log](#)

[Links](#)

[Exit](#)

## Log Index By Year

1. [1999 Log Entries: The Departure & Trip Down The Coast](#)
2. [2000 Log Entries: Cruising Mexico & RV Trip](#)
3. [2001 Log Entries: Cruising Mexico](#)
4. [2002 Log Entries: Cruising Mexico](#)
5. [2004 Log Entries: Cruising To Mexico & Waking Up Perpetua](#)
6. [2005 Log Entries: Boat Projects, States Side Visit, And Return to Boat Projects](#)
7. [2006 Log Entries: Return to Boat Projects, Mexico/USA Adventures, More Boat Projects](#)
8. [2007 Log Entries: Boat Projects, Mexico/USA Miss Adventures, Boat Projects](#)
9. [2008 Log Entries: Spring Boat Projects, USA Adventures, Fall Boat Adventures/Projects](#)

# Welcome to Perpetua's Favorite Links Page.

[Home](#)

[Photos](#)

[The Log](#)

[Links](#)

[Exit](#)

## Sailing Info Sites

[Latitude 38 - The Best West Coast Sailing Magazine](#)

[Latitude 38's - Baja HaHa First Timer's Guide to Mexico](#)

[Downwind Marine's Mexico Cruising Guide](#)

[Compiled by Daisy and Ed on S/V Siesta while in Zihuatanejo, Mexico - Southbounders Cruising Notes](#)

## Cruiser Sites With Good Info & Tools

[Useful Navigation Tools & Log From S/V Albion](#)

[Useful Cruising Log From S/V Ithaka](#)

[Useful Cruising Log & Local Cruising Guides From S/V Limerence](#)

[Useful Cruising Log From S/V Nine Of Cups](#)

[Useful Cruising Log From S/V Tackless II](#)

## Weather Info Sites

[NOAA - NWS Marine Forecast Home Page](#)

[NOAA - National Hurricane Center - Tropical Prediction Center](#)

[MPC's Radiofacsimile Charts User's Guide](#)

[MPC's Radiofacsimile Charts User's Guide - In a PDF Downloadable File](#)

[NOAA National Weather Service, Marine Fax Charts](#)

## **Cruising Clubs**

[Seven Seas Cruising Association](#)

[Cruising Club of America](#)

[World Cruising Club](#)

[America's Great Loop Cruisers Association](#)

[Pacific Cruising Association](#)

[Bluewater Cruising Association, Vancouver, BC](#)

How to Contact Us:

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Email: [svperpetua \(at sign\) yahoo.com](mailto:svperpetua@yahoo.com)

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[Home](#) | [Photos](#) | [The Log](#) | [Links](#) | [Exit](#)

## The Photo Table of Contents Page.

[Home](#)

[Photos](#)

[The Log](#)

[Links](#)

[Exit](#)

### Welcome to The Photos of Mexico's Bays & Ports.

#### Gold Coast Areas

[Bahia Tenacatita \(14\)](#)  
[Barra De Navidad \(15\)](#)  
[Manzanillo \(12\)](#)  
[Zihuatanejo \(12\)](#)

#### Mazatlan to Puerto Vallarta

[Mazatlan \(20\)](#)  
[Bahia Chacala \(8\)](#)  
[Punta Mita](#)  
[La Cruz](#)  
[Puerto Vallarta](#)  
[Altata \(12\)](#)

#### Baja La Paz to Bahia Conception

[La Paz Area \(10\)](#)  
[Isla Partida \(6\)](#)  
[Isla San Francisco \(8\)](#)  
[Aqua Verde \(12\)](#)  
[Puerto Escondido](#)  
[Isla Carmen](#)  
[Isla Mansarrat](#)  
[Isla Cornados](#)  
[San Juanico Cove](#)  
[Bahia Conception](#)  
[San Carlos](#)

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**Perpetua's Crew**



Email: [svperpetua \(at sign\) yahoo.com](mailto:svperpetua@sign.yahoo.com)

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## Bahia Tenacatita

These pictures are of the Bahia Tenacatita area. This bay is located 15 miles north of Barra De Navidad. or 45 miles north of Manzanillo. It a farvorire cruiser anchorage.

Date(s): December 8, 2004. Album by Patrick & Susan - Their Journeys. Photos by Perpetua's Crew. 1 - 21 of 21 Total. 142 Visits.

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1



2



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21

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### barra

These are the pictures of Barra De Navidad. It is located just 30 miles north of Manzanillo on Mexico's Gold (west) Coast.

Date(s): December 8, 2004. Album by Patrick & Susan - Their Journeys. Photos by Perpetua's Crew. 1 - 20 of 20 Total. 118 Visits.

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# manzanillo

These pictures are of the Manzanillo area.

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Next 2 | Show all



1



2



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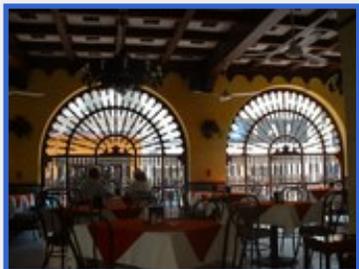
10



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24

**Continued ...**

[Select All.](#)

[Next 2](#) | [Show all](#)

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### ztown

These are pictures of Zihuatanejo, Mexico.

Date(s): December 12, 2004. Album by Patrick & Susan - Their Journeys. Photos by Perpetua's Crew. 1 - 24 of 35 Total. 179 Visits.

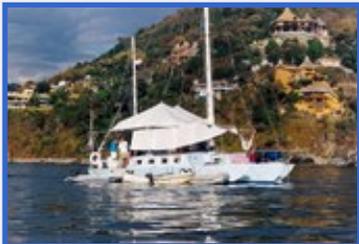
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Next 11 | Show all



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2



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11



12



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24

**Continued ...**

[Select All.](#)

[Next 11](#) | [Show all](#)

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## Mazatlan

These some photos around Mazatlan. We've ended up spending alot of time in Mazatlan. It's our Mexican Home Base.

Date(s): December 17, 2004. Album by Patrick & Susan - Their Journeys. Photos by Perpetua's Crew. 1 - 24 of 34 Total. 83 Visits.

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[Next 10](#) | [Show all](#)


1



2

**Palapa Resturant at the Isla Marina.**



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**Fishermen Monument on the Melecon**



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**Street Artist**



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14  
**Old Harbor**



15  
**Tuna Ships - Notice  
hilocopers on roof!**



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**Horse race as in like a  
drag race.**



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21

**Second Highest  
Lighthouse in the world.  
Highest working  
lighthouse in the world  
it's 515 feet from the  
water.**



22

**Visiting the lighthouse.**



23

**Lighthouse view**



24

**Lighthouse view. Notice  
the small boat  
anchorage in lower  
right of picture.**

**Continued ...**

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[Next 10](#) | [Show all](#)

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## Altata

This is a place we stopped at on our way across the Sea of Cortez in 2002. Its a the mainland side of Mexico. The nearest large town is Culiacan about 30 Kilometers away. Its located ona large bay and the area a is a resort area for the locals. Also there's a large size shrimp industry.

Date(s): December 17, 2004. Album by Patrick & Susan - Their Journeys. Photos by Perpetua's Crew. 1 - 18 of 18 Total. 120 Visits.

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[Order DVD](#)
[Email Photos](#)


1



2



3

Tides in!



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Tides in at the anchorage.



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Tides out at the anchorage.



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Crews of Perpetua, Kelmar (on left), Lady MJ in the back and Albion (on the right)



14

Susan had Red Snaper YUM!



15

Wall signing by the cruisers.



16

Patrick & Susan - Their Journeys | Home > websitepics >

## Chacala

Here are some photos of a nice anchorage between Mazatlan and Puerto Vallarta.

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## La Paz

La Paz is on the east coast of the Baja nearer to the southern end. its a good size city. It has marinas and other services, plus good shopping for supplies.

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1



2



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**Mushroom Rock in Bahia Balandra anchorage near La Paz**



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Patrick & Susan - Their Journeys | [Home](#) > [websitepics](#) >

## Isla Partida

Isla Partida & Isla Espirtosonto are about 25 miles north of La Paz and provide some of the best anchorages and crusing grounds around. Including on the north end being able to swim with seals!

Date(s): December 17, 2004. Album by Patrick & Susan - Their Journeys. Photos by Perpetua's Crew. 1 - 7 of 7 Total. 66 Visits.

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**Isla Partida & Espirito Santo**

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## Isla San Francisco

This is one of our favorite anchorages. It's along the Baja east coast about 40+ miles north of La Paz. Its a good stop over on the way north along the baja coast.

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1



2



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## Aqua Verde

Aqua Verde this is another anchorage along the stepping stones moving north along the baja. It's another favorite of ours. It's 40 miles off the paved road on a dirt road, so there is not much in the way of supplies at the fishing village. There is a restaurant of sorts, a teinda (store), and a goat cheese factory.

Date(s): December 17, 2004. Album by Patrick & Susan - Their Journeys. Photos by Perpetua's Crew. 1 - 21 of 21 Total. 133 Visits.

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1

**Perpetua in South Anchorage of Aqua Verde.**



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**South anchorage of Aqua Verde.**



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**The Teinda (store).**



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**The goat chesse factory. Yummy cheese!**



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**North Anchorage of  
Aqua Verde.**



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**Aqua Verde from the air.**

Select All.

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# The Adventure Begins in 1999

[Home](#)

[Photos](#)

[The Log](#)

[Links](#)

[Exit](#)

## 1999 Table of Contents

- [1. Log Entry: 3/19/99 - Let the Journey Begin, or So long and Thanks for all the Fish](#)
- [2. Log Entry: 5/19/99 - Update from the Crew](#)
- [3. Log Entry: 8/13/99 - Almost Gone ... We are in Astoria, Oregon](#)
- [4. Log Entry: 8/21/99 - Safe in Brookings Oregon. Now we ARE GONE.](#)
- [5. Log Entry: 8/29/99 - Made it to Bodega Bay, Ca, and Waiting for weather.](#)
- [6. Log Entry: 9/20/99 - At sea underway passing Pt. Conception and Beyond](#)
- [7. Log Entry: 11/5/99 - Cabo San Lucas Finally ...](#)
- [8. Log Entry: 11/24/99 - Neuvo Vallarta ...](#)
- [9. Log Entry: 12/21/99 - Merry Christmas from Zihuatanejo ...](#)

[Return To The Log Index](#)

# Perpetua's 1999 Log Entries

## 1. **Log Entry: 3/19/99 - Let the Journey Begin, or So long and Thanks for all the Fish**

Today 3/19/99 is my last day of work.

As of today I begin a new chapter in my life.

The end game of the longest five year plan, as it is known in my circle of boating friends. (started in April of 1975 when Perpetua (my boat) was purchased)

It's been great to either work and/or associate with each of you over the years. What follows is the known, or thought about itinerary of Perpetua and her crew. (Myself, my wife and my 16 year old son)

The boat comes out of the water on 4/6/99, at Schooner Creek Boats works near Janzen Beach. Its supposed to be out two weeks or less. We'll be refurbishing the bottom, repairing any damage and then painting the bottom and the hull up to the deck. We'll also be repainting both masts. We'll be adding some new equipment as well. Then we'll spend from splash down until the end of June painting the outside of the cabin and the deck of the boat, some inside painting, some canvas work and a bazillion other little things.

On 7/1/99 we fly to Minn. to visit my family and on 7/12/99 we fly to PA to see my wife, Susan's folks. 7/21/99 we will return to the boat. And begin final preparations for getting under way.

Sometime after 8/1/99 we'll leave our marina and take our time going to the SIYC Pig Roast. We'll spend atleast one day anchored off at the old Cove Marina, (where I

lived for 13 years) then it will be off to the annual SIYC Pig Roast at Sand Is. across from St. Helens, Oregon on 8/7/99. On Monday 8/9/99 we'll head down the Columbia river and turn left after crossing the bar.

After that we don't have any fixed dates for a while. We'll be harbor hopping down to the coast. I'd like to spend about a week or so in San Francisco. From there we'll work our way to San Diego by the middle or the end of October. If we join the Baja Ha Ha (a fun race/cruise) they leave San Diego at the end of October for Cabo San Lucas arriving about two weeks later. Or we may just go down ourselves, taking more time to stop at the various bays for some whale watching. None the less we'll end up in Cabo San Lucas. From Cabo we'll be jumping over to the mainland Mexico and heading for Zihuatanejo, 650 miles away, which is near Ixtapa, both are 150 miles or so North of Acapulco.

We'll stay there throughout the holidays and greet the new year 2000. My daughters will be joining us in, Zihuatanejo, during Xmas and new years (12/18/1999 - 1/1/2000) Our first rendezvous we have to make!

In mid January or so we'll begin to head North up the Mexican coast stopping frequently to experience as much as possible. We'll go through the resort areas of Manzanillo, Puerto Vallarta, and Mazatlan. From Mazatlan we'll cross over to La Paz on the Baja. By now it should be the middle to end of March or the first of April 2000. However by the middle of April I want to be in La Paz for the La Paz Race/Cruise week at Isle Partida which is held North of La Paz about 20 miles. That usually starts the third week in April and is a week long party with many activities. I have been there twice before on vacations but only for two days each time. (On friends boats in '85 and '94) From there we'll go back to La Paz provision and hang out alittle ??? Then head North up the Baja, stopping often. We need to be in Guaymas, back on the mainland by the first of June so we can make arrangements to leave the boat and return to Portland for my daughter, Jenica's graduation from college, in mid June of 2000. Then we'll be buying a used RV, if all goes well and doing some touring in the US before heading back to Mexico and the boat in September of 2000.

Beyond that its more time in Mexico maybe a year or so with visits back to the US periodically, then we'll head South stopping in Costa Rica for a visit and then continue to Panama, to go through the Panama Canal. From there we'll head North to Honduras, Guatemala, Rio Dulce and Lago Izabal area, then Belize, and the Mexican,

Yucatán peninsula and with often visits to the Mayan ruins. This area will occupy our time for it a while several months at least. After that we'll return to the US entering in somewhere in Texas. If we need to earn more freedom chips (money) we'll start looking there, otherwise we'll head on around the gulf states to Florida, then up the East coast's Intercoastal Water Way. We'll probably get as far as Washington DC or maybe New York, before heading back down the Intercoastal Water Way. Next it will be provisioning and maintenance time in Florida before heading out to the Bahamas, then down island through the windward islands of the Caribbean ending up in Venezuela. After hurricane season we'll retrace our steps back up island to Florida. We may do this for a couple of years. Go between Florida and Venezuela, or maybe do a complete circle of the Caribbean, stopping in Jamaica, Grand Caymans and back to Belize then onto to Florida with a stop in Cuba before returning to Florida. This is as far as I can see into the future and that's 4 to 6 years.

Of course this is all subject to change, due to our own decisions, the economies' stability, nature's influences and life changes. As the cruisers say "it's a definite possible maybe" and that's the truth!

So there you have it, what I know now of our plans.

Changes in Latitudes Changes in (the) Attitudes ... I am sad to say I am on my way and won't be back for many a day....

Choose to be at peace within yourself. Be at ease with life. Live long and prosper.

Follow your dreams for they can come true.

Your friend always,

Pat

## 2. **Log Entry: 5/19/99 - Update from the Crew**

Well, it's been an interesting time so far.

The VERY FIRST MONDAY Susan had off, I twisted my knee just one more time,

and ended up having surgery the following Wednesday. The boat was hauled out during the intervening Tuesday, so it was a full first week off. We have been SOOOOOOOOOO busy that I can't imagine I ever had time to work. Talk about 10 hour days...

The knee is better than it's ever been and the boat is back in the water after three weeks in the yard, and looks great from the Deck down and the deck up. We are busy finishing the middle.. Well, Pat is doing most of this while I'm focused in paper work to make sure money comes in, Pat Jr. gets enrolled in school, we carry some kind of medical insurance, and on and on and on. The Paper trail has been the worst. Everything that involves money takes two times longer than you'd expect, We still haven't got everything settled, but finally just this week CNF and Metamor Finally came through with Our 401k Rollover money, so soon..... In addition I've been sewing a lot of Canvas for covers for everything. I have a friend with an industrial sewing machine and a large garage so it's been VERY helpful. Just imagine trying to sew a bimini about 300 inches by 247 inches on a boat. Well.. It can be done, but a Garage is Far better. I already have about 30 hours into it, and it's only half done. Then there are jug covers, sail covers, sail bags, etc... I've also been studying for my Ham licence, Lots of Di Dahs and Dah dits. And a book on more electrical knowledge that I ever thought I wanted to know.

In addition to all that we are down to about 4 weeks here then about three weeks of travel visiting family, and then just two weeks left here to provision and make final preparations.

Have you ever thought about how much you have in your storage bins, and how to get all that on a boat, and how to feed people when the seas are rolling and the pot won't stay on the stove. Well I've got to figure all that out and then we need to prepare a spares list for essentials that we can't get in Mexico, like corn meal and oat meal, and good coffee, and spices, and peanut butter and then you need to have bins to store all the stuff in and the you need to remember where you put it.... and How much coffee do you drink in a week, and how much can you stow, and where is the Costco in San Diego anyway and will I have a car to get there, and maybe you get the picture. After you worry about the food then there are medical supplies, and then there are boat parts and more boats parts, and then there is navigation stuff, and Charts and do we have the right thingamabobs. Talk about project planning. This is worse than the worst project I ever worked on during computer years.

AND We still have lots on the list, and just yesterday Pat and I went through the list to see what can be done along the way and in Mexico. Everything won't get done. Talk about two project managers that are behind schedule. Well, We still haven't learned that if it's on a boat and you estimate the time it will take you need to multiply by three.

Any way I'm having FUN... I know all that didn't sound like it but there is something to be said for working on your own project. And seeing a dream come into reality. It's been a long 15 years of 5 year plans to get to this day for me and 20 years of five year plans for Pat. Those have been rolling five years plans, not individual ones.

Just yesterday we got the first coat of paint on the topsides, old Perpetua now looks better all over, today will be the final coat and then we need to do the deck. This is about the only time I wish I had a monohull, less deck, less paint... But then I'd have to like to lean, and so, I guess I'll have to be happy with the more paint.

Love to all .... From Perpetua's crew.

### **3. Log Entry: 8/13/99 - We are almost Gone...We are in Astoria, Oregon**

It's been a while since we wrote, as we have been swamped. As much as we were ready for this we really didn't know just HOW much needed to be done. We have worked nonstop since we quit work, with the exception of trips to see family in July.

Our Family visits are over and we had a great time. In Texas, Susan spent time with her step-daughter Lynn, and found out what Texas is like. It's HOT!.. Lynn has a 20 acre farm and 4 horses, four dogs, and one jack-ass, and two children, and a job., So that's what keeps her busy. Pats Family in MN is also fine and we spent time at his sister's cabin on the Lake with almost all his family (we were missing one brother and his family out of Pat's family of six kids.) We swam, went boating, ate and ate some more and relaxed by Lake Alexandra. We then went on to Pa. where Susan's family is and had a good time, there also. Visiting with Family and taking a quick tour of the upper Chesapeake Bay. All our families will be missed, but since we have already been so far away, it makes the partings a bit easier. The Internet will help keep us close.

The event of the return trip was thunderstorms in Chicago that kept us at the Airport for 14 extra hours. YUCK! It was dreadful.

We arrived home to have just a week and a half before our scheduled departure from the dock on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. We didn't make it. But we did leave on the third. So one day late isn't too bad. Nevertheless, we had stuff all over the deck, and junk all over the inside. It is now all stowed, but Susan feels as if she's touched everything twice or three times, trying to fit it all in places that can be accessed easily. We are betting that we will be throwing things out all along the way. Moreover, we look forward to the day when we ship our winter clothes back to Seattle, for storage. That will be a great day.

It's looking like we will be heading out on Monday the 16<sup>th</sup>. That's when the NW winds are scheduled to be back. Right now the winds are SW and we really don't think pounding into the waves is a good thing. So now, we are ready and waiting for weather. The trip down the Columbia was a bit lumpy at times. As the wind was on our nose as expected. The short chop that occurs here is a real pain, and while our boat sails well, we hate the short choppy waters. However, the boat handled well and while we were pounding some. It helped us get the trim right. We needed to move some weight to the bow to settle her out.

The highlight of our first week was the annual SIYC pig roast. Perpetua's Team in the Pig Olympics came in third. With Bill winning the Blind Dinghy race with Jenica's help telling him which way to row. All our family from the area attended, and it was Hard to say Goodbye. We all had a great time, and many pictures we taken to remember the event.

We had an unexpected surprise when we got to Astoria as the town in is the midst of the annual Regatta. They are having firework tonight and we feel it is appropriate to send us on our way.

We will write more as the trip progresses, but wanted to let everyone know we are finally on our way and moving toward the sunny skys that are south of here.

Thanks to everyone who helped send us off, it was a memorable Pig roast and one we will not forget.

Love to all .... From Perpetua's crew.

#### 4. **Log Entry: 8/21/99 - We are in Brookings Oregon. Now we ARE GONE.**

Since our last update we have traveled down the Oregon Coast. Brookings is the last port in Oregon, and our next trip will take us into California. Land of Taxes.

We left Astoria on Monday the 16<sup>th</sup>. About 10:00 am. The trip over the Columbia Bar was a bit bumpy but, all in all not a bad crossing. Once we were past the effects of the Columbia River, it was Smooth sailing. We put up our main and genny and sailing for 80 miles on ONE tack. Actually, it was a beam reach all the way. And for those who don't know, a tri loves to reach. We were at times, hitting 6 knots over the ground, but averaged about 4.2, in about 10 to 15 knots of wind. The sea was calm with swells of about 3 feet, and only minor wind chop. Kim and Chris Taylor were with us in "Jasmine Isle", they were this first to have the Dolphins visit and play in the bow wake, but they eventually found us. We were thrilled, but they didn't stay long, I think we were going too slow. Of course Kim and Chris won't let us forget who got visited first!

We arrived in Newport about 11:30 AM the following Tuesday morning. We were tired but happy to have made our first real passage. The trip has really begun. In Newport, we met up with Richard and Anita on "Moon Shadow" (another SIYC boat), we meet two Canadian boats on there way south, and Leslie Fournier stopped by to visit. We were treated to car rides, to the marine store (as usual) and the grocery store by a local Cruiser getting ready to leave in about three weeks. Everything you've heard about the friendliness and helpfulness of the boating community is true. In our first port, it was verified.

We spent two days in Newport, resting after the 24 hour sail, and doing laundry and grocery shopping. We left on Thursday, stopping for the night at Coos bay, an 84 mile run listening to Jimmy Buffet in 80 degrees and shorts. It was mostly a motor trip, but at the end of the trip we got our sails up and it was great.. We left at about 5:00 AM, so we could get in before dark. Kim and Chris were to follow, and also Richard and Anita. We later found out that the Taylor's had engine trouble and were escorted back into Newport by the Coast Guard. We miss them, and hope all is well.

(Chris, don't forget the Fagauwee net.)

In Coos Bay, we decided on two short days, one to Port Orford and the following day to Brookings. Port Orford is a beautiful anchorage located along side a 200-foot cliff. I hope the pictures turn out. It is an anchorage protected from the NW winds, and has good holding ground. We left the following day, Saturday, around 7:00 AM as the winds are predicated to get as high as 25 knots late in the day, and we wanted to be in Brookings by the time it arrived. As we expected, we had good sailing again today. Boy I love setting the sails and not having to mess with them. When we got closer to Brookings the winds did come up some and we were about to jibe the main and the genny to go wing on wing. The snap shackle for the clew on the genny open on the shroud and the genny became a roller furling system (wrapped itself around the forward stay) real fast, so down she came. We reefed the main and were still doing 6.5 knots, so we finally dropped it as well. Back to the trusty motor. This was just three miles from the entrance so it was just a well anyway, beside the wind was at 28 knots and climbing fast. The sea state was getting quite lumpy about that time and we were glad to be getting in as planned. We entered the harbor easily and found a tie up for the next two nights. Now we get to find the showers, grocery store, and laundry again.

Our next stop will be Eureka, Ca. I hope that I can get to an Internet café there again. They are not as prevalent in the US as we expected, then again every place we've been has been small fishing communities. We hope to leave on Monday, weather and sea state permitting.

Kim, Chirs, hope to see you again SOON.

Love to all .... From Perpetua's crew.

## 5. **Log Entry: 8/29/99 - We are in Bodega Bay, Ca, and Waiting for weather.**

Well, here we sit in Bodega Bay... Waiting for favorable weather. We have finally had time to read all our email and get some personal responses out. It has been a tad hectic as we have many things to find as soon as you arrive somewhere, and planning for the next leg of the trip. It seems there isn't enough time to do much. How did I

ever find time to work?

For those of you just receiving this as your first message from us (sorry Anne and others), please accept our apologies as we found our email address book was a tad messed up. I hope that it is all in order now.

I've read Kim and Chris's email and they do have a better way of describing how things really are out here, than I do. I will endeavor to do better in the future. Their mail is inspiring. So, how do I describe what's really been going on.

Curising has been, it is safe to say, one adventure after another. However, the kind of adventures you don't have too much control over. You are truly at the mercy of the weather. At times that you'd like to sail there is light wind or too much wind or wind on the nose, but not strong enough to sail, however just enough to give you a LUMPY ride. Of the 34 hours motoring at sea, between Eureka and Bodega Bay, we spent 16 hours in the fog and actually entered port and docked in the fog (that goodness for RADAR and GPS). You will find yourself motoring far more than you had hoped. It is VERY important that you can trust your engine. We have been sailing with two boats so far that have had fuel problems. We have three filters on our diesel, some think this is overkill, but so far so good. Coarse now that that is in writing I hope I haven't jinxed us. We keep on top of all maintenance, and as of today, I need to change the oil again. I made the mistake a few years back of taking a diesel maintenance class, and committed to Pat that I would maintain the engine. Silly me, where did I ever come up with that idea... I felt I needed to be sure I could do everything he could, so now I've got myself stuck doing these things. Actually, for a woman, it is a good thing. Last thing I want to happen is an engine problem that I couldn't take care of because I didn't know how. It's great to be out here, and see all the sights. We are finally beginning, just beginning, to feel as if we are doing it. Today, we wanted to leave, but now I'm glad for the break, as that's what this is all about..... No SET SCHEDULES!

The sea life is fantastic, seals everywhere... The one's that amaze me are the ones who tend to sit on the buoys. How they manage to get their large girths up there is a constant puzzle to me. The sea buoys are about ten to twelve feet from the ocean surface, and yet here are these two to three hundred pound animals just lazing away the day, resting there. Even the small seals get themselves aboard for the rest. Then there are the Pelicans. I love pelicans. Today earlier, I even saw them flying in the same vee formation that Geese do, I didn't know they did that. Heretofore I've only

see three or four together in formation and they are always so close to the water that you'd think they would run into the wave tops. They are a clumsy looking thing, but when flying together and close to the water, they are nothing but grace. Except when the dive. I get such a kick out of watching them hunt, the dive-bomber in them is amazing. But they usually hit their mark and are rewarded with a good dinner. We haven't seen as many dolphins as we would like, but we have seen some. They appear so fast, that if your not paying attention, you could miss them. Twice we have sailed through a pod when they we feeding. It's quite a sight, as they are so active diving about in a feeding frenzy. We have seen several sunfish. These guys lay on the surface on their sides and just watch us go by with a big smile on their faces. Some are quite large 5 – 6 feet across! We have actually seen sea Gulls sitting on them. That is actually one way to spot them, another way is to look for a fin that almost looks like a shark fin, but it is too lazy just flopping about. Another way is to see a white area up ahead that doesn't go away as you approach. Other boats are hugging the coast a bit closer than us and report whale sightings, We tend to follow the coast out a bit more, 5 to 10 miles, catching the southerly current. So, maybe when we get further south we will have some whale siting, once their migration north gets into full swing.

As for the towns, we haven't been tourists too much. Mostly visiting folks on the docks, and find Internet connections, food, and laundry facilities. In addition, of coarse the much wanted showers and an occasional dinner out. While in Eureka, we did rent a Van with our friends from Moonshadow, and went to see the Redwoods. We visited the Avenue of the Giants. They truly are a sight to see. A tree so big that were alive before Recorded time, and before Christ was born are impossible to imagine, but they were there, in all their splendor. An example is the Founder tree which was 350 feet high and the limbs didn't even start until 190 feet up the tree. It was 12 feet in diameter and 20 feet in circumference. Another one titled the immortal and was 950 years old! Wow!!

We also had someone come out a check our radios while we were in Eureka. Now that we have good connections and removed some switches causing "leaking electricity" we have been able to reach our friends at Casselmans Cove marina. A much wanted connection. Soon we will get our weather fax set up and our emergency email over the SSB radio. More on this to follow.

Today we will start up our water maker just to verify that it works and that we have no leakage. We decided to do this today at the dock, rather than finding possible leaks

at sea. So today will be a day of maintenance again, sending thing out on the net, and generally relaxing somewhat. For those of you who are following us the internet connection at the Spud Point Marina (Bodega Bay) is in the laundry room, by the pay phone. Assuming that you have got your own ISP. BTW, the laundry room is cheap and small, but looks so much like Cassleman's that when I first walked in and saw the machines, I though I was back home for a minute, but only a minute.

We are hoping our friends Kim and Chris catch up to us, and also the Butts on Dreamweaver. We expect to leave for SFO with in a day or two. And plan on spending about two weeks in the Bay area. I hope that that will provide enough time for a reunion amongst the Cassleman's crew, and others from Portland.

Fair winds and following seas to all. I guess for you folks on land that would be a good omen as well.

Love to all .... From Perpetua's crew.

## 6. **Log Entry: 9/20/99 - We are at sea underway passing Pt. Conception towards Santa Barbara, and beyond to Newport..**

Since we last wrote, we finally got out of Bodega Bay. We had to wait about three days for the weather we were comfortable sailing in. The predictions that we chose not to sail in we 25 – 35 knot winds, with steep seas. Not our cup of tea. Waiting proved to be the better coarse. When we left, we had NW winds at about 15 knots, and a nice sail. The bay is a beautiful spot, but we were glad to be on our way. Our next stop was San Francisco.

It was quite a thrill to sail under the Golden Gate Bridge. It was sunny, good winds, actually almost too much, and the seas were a bit confused, so we got bounces around a bit, but it was a thrill, and one I will long remember. I used almost a roll of film taking picture after picture, (kinda like always pushing the clear key on a calculator twice) needed to make sure at least one or two came out. I any event, we stayed in Sausalito for about two days, at anchor, and then sailed across the Bay to Alameda. There we met with Pat's family. His brother (Mike), wife (Mary), and three kids (Sean, Galin, and Keely), and his nephew (Tim) and girl friend.(Andrea). We went for a boat ride to see downtown SFO from the water. We also ran into our friends

from PDX, on DreamWeaver. (Toby and Linda Butts and 2 sons). We lived two slips from the Butts for the past five years. It was great to see them and we tied up along side in the Harbor right in front of The Maritime museum. I think we became a tourist attraction. Mike and Family and Tim and friend went ashore to visit the Gherilli Chocolate Factory, Actually the just wanted ice cream I think. But the also found the crooked road, and had a great time. Pat and I stayed to catch up with Toiby and Linda, and next thing we knew, we had another PotLuck Dinner. We sailed back to Alameda Late in the evening, and said good Bye to family. The Next day we visited their place in Tracy Ca. They have a lovely home and yard. I still feel strange with so much room around. Boy I'd hate to clean all that.. too much house for me, but they are happy there and there is plenty of room for the kids.

Next we sailed back to Sausalito and played tourist. We tied to mooring buoy at the Sausalito Yacht Club. We took the Ferry to downtown, went to Pier 39, rode the trolley cars, a generally had a great tourist day. The next day I opted out as I needed a day to catch up on the boat things. Patrick really wanted to see Alcatraz so he and Pat went off for the day. I was glad for the quite time and they had a good Father / son day.

When we reached SFO, Moon Shadow ( Richard and Anita) went their way and we went ours, so when we were ready to leave they were still playing and having a great time. We met up with DreamWeaver again in Half Moon Bay. This is a fishing village, small, nice to visit, but we didn't want to stay. The red tide was very prevalent in the Marina and the water was like coffee. We moved along the next day. The next port was Monterey.

We have heard much about this place from other cruisers, and friends. It lived up to it's reputation. Quite beautiful. Abundant sea life, clear water, and we got to be a tourist attraction again. I actually hate this part, but since we are a tri, we end up moored in spots out side some of the more crowd marinas. So we were tied to the tourist strip called Fisherman's Warf. We thought about selling Pictures, but thought better of it, but I bet we would have made some money. We stayed here long enough to get to see our mail, but not respond to any, visit to local Laundromat, find the grocery. I did a Costco run with Linda Butts, and it was quite a thrill to see the Cabbies face when he came to pick us up with two full baskets of stuff from Costco. Since I was at the tourist trap mooring, it was also quite fun to be delivered curb side, empty a stack of groceries on the sidewalk, and wait for three trips of the cart to the boat through the Fisherman's Warf. Oh the side of cruising that one never thinks

about.

We walked quite a bit in Monterey, there is a nature path by the shore, and it leads to the old area called Cannery Row. Cannery Row, is where the old fishing canneries used to be, and were there was a large undertaking to catalog the marine biology of the area. Monterey Bay is unique in that it has a Very deep cavern just off shore, and therefore a very wide set of species living in the bay. Cannery Row has now been turned into Shops galore, (why is it that all attractions are now Malls?) and it also houses the Aquarium. We visited this and it is quite impressive. They have fantastic displays of Jellyfish, and VERY Large tanks that house a Kelp Farm and many varieties of fish. It is a must see Aquarium.

After three days there, we left and went on to Morro Bay. The trip down was another overnigher, and the stars were out for a bit, but as usual the fog rolled in to obscure everything. I just can't wait to get out of the fog and cold. Our Friend Walt said not to miss Morro Bay, as the Rock outside the harbor is quite a sight.. Morro Bay is still a fishing town. The Harbor is small, and the shopping and laundry are quite a hike away. The Yacht Club there allows tie ups, but charge 10 \$ per night. It is actually the only place to stay there. The public marina are quite full, of commercial vessels. The Harbor seals here are the most active we have seen so far. Don't know why, but they are playing all the time. We tied to a mooring ball, and enjoyed our visit here. We met some folks from a yacht club from Alameda. Seems they have 12 boats leaving this year, and we heard that the Baja Ha Ha (a fun race from San Diego to Cabo) has 149 paid entries this year. The largest so far. We signed up for it late, so I hope we are accepted.

After Morro Bay it was around Point Conception. This is known as the Cape Horn of the Pacific Coast. We were fortunate in that we had only a max of ten knots of wind and very calm seas. We were able to sail some but motored most of the way. Leaving Morro Bay, however was the scariest time I had though. There was no real danger, but a whale chose to surface just about 30 feet directly in front of the boat. It was a hump back, and went back down quite quickly. I was on watch, put the boat in full reverse from full ahead as quickly as you can say jack rabbit. But oh my, what a scare. It was huge and if it had been closer, well, but I think they just like to scare us. Once I got past that, the trip was an easy one. Lots of stars at night this time, and no fog. One couldn't ask for a better crossing around Point Conception. IT was also the beginning of the offshore oil rigs. They are so light up that you can see them miles away.

We were rewarded with Sun in Santa Barbara. We also caught up to Dreamweaver again. Santa Barbara was a treat. There is a trolley system throughout the town and for a quarter you can get anywhere. There is a Farmer market on Tuesdays and Sat. and the farm produce is as fresh as you can get. We went to a movie there and at out a lot, and spent to much money. We got fresh Tuna from the fisherman and cooked it, and boy did it taste good. Nothing like FRESH fish. We stayed there five days. One of those days we rented a Van and drove to Hearst Castle. What a sight. The castle is a study in Opulence. I just can imagine having that kind of money. Who needs two pools anyway, and golly no hot tub. The art work was fantastic. It really is a sight to be seen, but I wouldn't want to live there.

Next it was a short hop to Santa Cruz Island. The trip from Santa Barbara was in flat calm and fog. We left Santa Barbara in Sun, but within five miles we hit the fog. We were treated to a visit of a huge Pod of Dolphins. I mean HUGE, had to be three hundred. Babies, jumpers, and ones who chased the bow wake. The fog was thin enough to see about a mile or so, so with the flat calm, we could see them a coming. What a thrill. We made water, and the water maker is working great. We have been very happy to have one. One less thing to worry about acquiring while in port. Our exploring of Santa Cruz Island... Visited three anchorage's. First we went to Prisoners Harbor. There we experienced our first time of anchoring five times before the anchor set. Lots of ell grass, and each time we raised the anchor after a non set, the anchor was just full of the stuff. Of course our buddy boat, at the time, Dreamweaver came in and dropped the anchor and it took first time. The GPS we have is first rate. Having the maps along with the GPS is much desired. We sit in the cockpit and can see the charts as we move forward. Pat plots the coarse on the PC using Captain's, transfers the waypoints to the GPS in the Pilot house (someday we will get the electronic upload connection finished) and off we go. . It is Especially very nice to have in the fog.

While in Prisoners Harbor, we launched the dinghy and explored all the surrounding shoreline for several miles. Many caves close to shore that you can venture into with the dinghy. The Kelp beds and water is clear enough to see through and watch the fish and star fish, and we have even spotted sea urchins. We left there an went west to Cueva Valdez and anchored again. It's a small cove, so we put out a stern anchor. (You know how much Pat loves to do that) Anyway from there we dinghyed to Painted cave three miles away. It is a cave that you can dinghy into but it is so large that inside it's 80 to 125 feet high and 600 feet deep. It's quite interesting to be inside

a cave that has ocean swells rolling into it. Actually it a bit un-nerving, as you think you be caught up in them and pushed against the sides. Both of these anchorages were overcast and not cold but not warm either. We then went on to Smugglers cove on the south eastern end of the Island. And boy did the Sun come out. Warm. Oh so warm. The night sky was wondrous, so far from shore and lights. We were almost sorry the moon came out and took away the Milky Way. From there we sailed back to the mainland to Oxnard. The dolphins came back and the wind was 12-15 knots, and Perpetua just loved it, A beautiful sunny day. We need to reprovision and be ready for Santa Catalina next. Our Solar panels and wind generator are working, but the amps are not getting to the batteries?? Problem just started, and hopefully it will be a cheap fix? We will see.

We left Oxnard after three days. We are now at Santa Catalina Island. We went to the west side of the island, were is it less crowded. We will not visit Avalon as the bus ride there is 36 dollars a head, and we really don't need to see another tourist mall, or the casino. We are enjoying the quite of the harbor the sun that has been here sinde we arrived, and the clear water. We got our panel working again, and the wind generator. The solar panel needed a new regulator, and the wind generator has some grease on the electrical contact points. Both fixed an working again.. Ah yes, maintenance in exotic locations. WE are going to Newport next and it about 44 mile from here. I am hoping to get this last update mailed from there. We will be visiting Universal studios, and then we will be off to San Diego. Also there is a cruiser party at a Marine store called Minnie's that we hope to get to and meet up with others leaving this year. As far as we can tell, this is a big year for cruisers. With 130 + in the Baja Ha Ha, and many other we met who are following along after. Many Canadians, and Californians, and so far we've met only one boat from Seattle, but I'm sure they are coming as well. Well, enough for this update.

Love to all .... From Perpetua's crew.

## **7. Log Entry: 11/5/99 - Cabo San Lucas Finally.....**

When Last we wrote, we at Santa Catalina Island, I think,. Anyway, since then we've been to Newport, Ca at a swap meet, then on to San Diego, for what we thought was to be a relaxing two weeks. As it turned out, we were busy as ever, with little time to sit. As this was our last port in the US, there was the inevitable panic as to if we had

the right stuff on board, and did we have enough food. One last Costco trip. Many trips to Marine stores. We have blown our budget for the US and hope to catch back up by spending next to nothing in Mexico.. Time will tell. A trip to the fisherman's supply, visits to Immigration, and Mexican fisheries, and three Baja Ha Ha get togethers, plus one Portland boat get together, oh, and another swap meet, and we managed to catch the San Diego Zoo. A very busy two weeks, we were able to check our email at the local Library just once, and sent a few responses, but if you haven't heard from us it's cause we just didn't have time. And I was worried about being bored. Never!

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of October, we left San Diego with 126 other boat to begin the first leg of the Ha Ha. The first time we were to spend three nights a sea. A bit nervous was I but the guys were fine with it. When at sea the boat becomes your only thought. Keep it going, keep the crew fed, and get enough sleep if possible. The first leg was to Turtle Bay, and we (I) was thrilled to get there. The seas were roly, the wind strong, but the boat handled well, and we did only a little motoring. We mostly sailed. Leg two was without wind, to speak of, so we used the engine abit more, but had to conserve if we needed to motor to Cabo. We don't carry but 60 gallon of fuel, that why it's a sail boat. As it turned out we motored sailed more than expected, but kept the Rpms low, and used very little fuel. That was good caused we wanted to get to Cabo with only one night out, so we motor sailed all the way there and managed to get in before about half the fleet. Better than we'd done so far.

So, The highlights. Leg 1 just making it, Turtle Bay end of leg 1, had a small town, we went ashore to hordes of Mexican kids wanting to watch our dinghy for a buck, We ate at a small restaurant overlooking the harbor, and spent little money for a great meal. The next day was a beach party and our first surf landing. Pat did this without flaw, Hopefully the next time he'll remember how he did it. Patrick's Highlight of the first leg was surfing down the back of waves at 10 knots. Wind of 25 to 30 knots helped, with 12 foot seas. Only for about 6 hours, then then wind dropped and the seas calmed as we approache the bay.

Leg 2 we caught our first tuna, an Albacore, 34 inches and about 25 Lbs. We were so excited we forgot to take a picture, so it's just another fish story. What we didn't know was that after it's dead, and you filet it, and wait about 10 minutes to put it in the marinate, the flesh is still twitching. You don't get it fresher than that, but Susan was a bit put out off by the feelings when she lifted the fish. ARGH!

Leg 3 , saw a whale breach, about 100 yards off our starboard side, and were treated to a "sea world" quality display by about 8 porpoises. We are getting used to the heat. 80 degree water, and air. Quite a difference than what we are used to. Tomorrow, we will leave for a three days trip to the Mainland, just north of PV. WE will stop at Isla Isabella, which is a wild life sanctuary were we will see tons of birds, then wee will splurge on a Marina Paridise village at Neuava Varatta (SP?) for two weeks. We haven't been next to a dock since mid September, and are ready for that. The boat need a wash, and we need to relax.. AND there are three pools there for swimming.. More to follow, Just lett'n you all know we've made it to Sun and warmth, and the land of Pesos.

Love to all .... From Perpetua's crew.

## 8. **Log Entry: 11/24/99 - Neuvo Vallarta.....**

Well, after being here for two weeks I finally found out how to spell it right. We are enjoying the Sun, the pools, the heat, and the 78 degree weather late at night. We are wearing tee shirts and shorts only. Susan has even gone to dresses (if you can believe that) to keep cool. This has been a great break for us. We are just sitting, doing occasional boat projects and enjoying ourselves before we push on. We plan to leave here around Monday or Tuesday next week for the push onward to Zuatenojo. It all depends on our friends scheduled propeller replacement.

For those of you who haven't heard, we never made it to Isla Isabella. Our friends on Sun Star, Ray and Anne, lost their propeller somewhere two days out of Cabo. It just fell off. So, they decided to push straight for the mainland. We decided to stay with them. They did some good sailing and were ahead of us, while we found a small problem with our starting battery. Our engine started fine as long as the Entire battery bank was engaged. Seems the new starting battery died a quick death, and it fried (melted) one of our battery posts on the battery isolator charging circuit. It will be replaced. So while we were figuring that out, they were sailing along with no prop and got about 8 miles ahead of us. We caught up and came to NV about the same time. They said, go on in and get us a slip and alert the marina they would be coming in under sail. Of coarse we did and that is probably why the wind then chose to die. So back out we went 8 mile to find them using GPS coordinates, and towed them in about 17 miles or so. All is well now, and they are waiting for a delivery of a new

prop. We had planned on being here two weeks anyway, so if all fit together.

If their prop doesn't come in time, we may have to move on alone as we have a plane to meet in Z-town. Jenica and Lydia are coming in for the holiday, and the last thing we want to do is be late.

The trip over was a three day push and we were tired when we got here. But all in all it was an easy sail / motor/ sail... No bad winds, at times not enough wind, and the sea life was pretty absent, expect for a Turtle that Pat got to see, and the Dorado that got off the hook (darn). It still amazes me that we are here. Palm trees, Spanish language, warm water, sun, good food, crazy Mexican Bus drivers, crowded city (PV), and generally a great place to be. We forgot how to relax along the way, so this is good for us. The sunsets are spectacular, and the phosphorescence in the water at night is fantastic. When the fish swim around the boat the water just glows. Two days after we were here we took our friends on a day trip to do some snorkeling. The snorkeling didn't pan out as the surf was too rough, but we saw another pod of porpoise and had a good day of fun.

Another day was spent getting paperwork done. Checked into the country, and arranging for the ten year boat import papers. There is a girl here.. Velma, Paradi Village Marnia can get you in touch with her, but she handled our paper work for the import for us, charged 35 dollars, and it was done in 5 days. VERY EASY.

Oh.. Something I forgot to mention last time. While we were anchored in Cabo we saw first hand why every one should practice GOOD anchoring techniques. One of the Ba Ha boats anchor rode was too short we figure, and it came loose, the boat went into the surf and went aground. We saw it happen about the time it hit the surf, and was close to shore. By that time a bunch of Mexican Pangas (Mexican work boats) were trying Very hard to keep it from going hard aground. However, the Panga engines could not hold the boat off shore. A Para sail boat showed up with a bigger engine, then a Jet skier run his jet ski up to the boat to get another line on it, and the Para sail boat was able to haul the boat off the beach. It was very sobering to watch the boat just roll in the surf, mast slapping from side to side. They were very lucky.. they only lost their rudder and were very wet inside, all the ports (windows) were open. Had it been much longer in the surf, who know what would have happened. It is a testament to the Mexicans how they came to the rescue so fast, and with little regard to their own safety. Just approaching the boat while it was flopping in the surf was quite dangerous. Just think of 16,000 to 30,000 pound of uncontrolled mass. But the

boat was saved and hauled out and the rudder was being repaired when we left Cabo. It also gave Pat an opportunity to drive a Panga. The day after it happened, a Panga guy came by to dive for some of the missing rudder. He asked Pat to handle his boat while he swam a shore for the leftovers. Pat was happy to help, and now he is an official panga handeler. Oh the things we get to do out here!

More later.. From Z-town.. Best wishes to all for a happy Thanksgiving.

Love to all .... From Perpetua's crew.

## 9. **Log Entry: 12/21/99 - Merry Christmas from Zihuatanejo.**

Well, it has been a year for us. So many changes in Attitudes, and Latitudes (they made a song like this once). We have seen so much and it is hard to express what it is like. We have tried to communicate to everyone in a manner that conveys our experiences, but we are left feeling as if we can't fully say what it is like. We feel very fortunate to be doing what we are. However, we find we miss our families and friends!

So here we are in Zihuatanejo, just south of Ixtapa on December 21, reflecting on last year and looking forward to the next year. I guess the fact that we are to have a full moon on the winter solstice that is closer to the earth than it has been in 133 years, and we are SURE we will see it without the benefit of the northwest cloud cover, sums up how we feel about being here. Right now, there is a school of fish just outside the boat. We are anchored in about 20 feet of green water, not brown. It's nighttime and if you shine a flashlight into the water, the fish flock to the light, and the water becomes thick with fish. All different types.

We left Banderous Bay, (that's the bay, where Puerto Vallarata is). Early on the morning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December with our friends Anne and Ray on Sun Star. We stopped many places along the way to Zihuatanejo. The first was Ipala. It is a small fishing village, so small we did not go ashore. This was a rest stop. Next, we stopped at Chamela. We stayed here two nights. The bay here is lovely, and requires a longer visit on the way back north later next spring. There are two islands here to visit, and we understand one is a roosting ground for Boobies, and they are tame enough that they allow photos of their young up close and personal. There are also places to

snorkel that we will visit later. Next, stop Tenacanita. This is where the Jungle mangrove tour occurs. You get in your dinghy, find the entrance to the small river, and walk your dinghy through the shallow spots till the water loses the tidal effect, and then sit back and drive for the next four miles or so under mangroves that create a tunnel effect. The trees are so thick that you can not see where the trees end and the land begins. Small crabs, many birds, iguanas (we saw them swimming here) and other life we didn't see are abundant in this forest. At the other end is a beach on the sea, with many Palapa restaurants (palapas are a Mexican pole structure that is covered with Palm fronds, sort of like a cover patio). The following day we went to the outside anchorage at Tenacanita, where there is a spot in the rocks locally known as the Aquarium. Good snorkeling, MANY MANY fish, coral, eels, etc. At one point, I was in the middle of a school of small fish that was on all sides of me, thousands of fish. What a kick. Just like in the movies.

After Tenacanita, we stopped at Manzanillo. We anchored off the Los Hadas hotel, a Moorish looking hotel on one of the many beaches there. WWE took a bus to town and did some touring. It is a large town that the other we have visited on this coast, and is more of a Mexican, not a tourist town. Interesting to get closer to their way of life. After this, we pushed on to Zihuatanejo, quickly, stopping only one night to rest. As it turned out, we stopped, on the evening of the celebration of the Virgin of Guadeloupe. From the boat at anchor, we watched a town parade, all 2,000 village citizens were in the parade, many banners, two cars, and a truck, carrying a shrine to Mary and someone was following the parade shooting off fireworks as they walked the town. All of Mexico celebrates this as a Holy Day it is part of a build up to Christmas.

OUR final night at sea after that, we could not have asked for a clearer night. The moon was not out but the stars were so bright that we thought we had a full moon. Billions and Billions of stars. Moreover, we had a light show of shooting stars. I have never seen so many in one night. I was counting for a while and quit after I counted ten in one minute. It seemed to go on all night. Short ones, long ones, trails of ones, and brilliant ones.

Then to top that, we had a phosphoresces show. Pretend that you have a flashlight, covered with light green paper, with white bubbles on it that move around. And that light is turned on and off fast, like a lighting bug, and then pretend you are looking a

black water, and that light comes on about the size of a plate in one spot and the size of a coffee table in another, and all the sizes in between at different times, and in different places, for about 1/2 a miles on either side of you and that this goes on for a few hours as well. We didn't know whether to look at the sky or the water. What a night, and what a way to end a long hard push to get here.

Now to all we wish a Merry Christmas and a Good New Year. We hope you find your days filled with your choice of activities and happiness.

Love to all .... From Perpetua's crew.

## How to Contact Us:

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Note: Our email address requires the @ sign, not included here to minimize spamming.

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# The Adventure Continues in 2000

[Home](#)

[Photos](#)

[The Log](#)

[Links](#)

[Exit](#)

## 2000 Table of Contents

- [1. Log Entry: 2/19/2000 - Update from Zihuatanejo ... after leaving](#)
- [2. Log Entry: 4/27/2000 - Update from La Paz before we leave](#)
- [3. Log Entry: 7/23/2000 - Update from the "dirt boat" ... Wow what a difference!](#)
- [4. Log Entry: 11/12/00 - Update from San Carlos Marina, Sonora Mexico](#)
- [5. Log Entry: 12/22/00 - Update from Puerto Vallarta "Paradise Village Marina"](#)

[Return To The Log Index](#)

## Perpetua's 2000 Log Entries

## 1. **Log Entry: 2/19/2000 - Update from Zihuatanejo before we leave... oops, it didn't get out so it's after we left.**

Let me start by saying that while we have not gotten out an update since before Christmas, we are still thinking of friends and family in the states. We have been busy getting to know the area, and visiting with family here and in the states, as you will see in the following. We have heard from some of you who have been concerned that you haven't heard from us for a while. This will occur occasionally, as our schedules are quite unpredictable. In addition, Internet cafes are not always readily available. We will try hard to update everyone on our whereabouts as we arrive and leave different areas. Thank you for your concerns and continued friendships, it is Very important to us. Letters from home are a treat we look forward to, and even if we don't always respond personally, we do thank you and will respond in our next newsletter.

We have been here for about 2 months now. It has been a busy time.

During these two months;

- Pat's girls, Jenica and Lydia, visited over Christmas and New Year,
- Susan's took a two-week trip north to visit her family, friends and new grand baby,
- Pats Parents and brother Perry visited,
- We learned how to get around in a small Mexican port,
- And meet many new friends.

I am continually amazed that we have so much time on our hands, and yet, we have none. Our days fill before we know it, and we don't get done near what we wanted to nor what we intended to. I hate to say it but maybe we need a plan. But then, we are at anchor. To get to shore to do things, requires getting the dingy down from the davits, making sure what you are taking in, is water proofed, making the list of what you need while you are there, and off you go. The trip to shore is about 15 minutes. Once there, the dinghy is hauled up on the beach, your feet are washed, then trudge over the sand carefully so you don't walk to town with shoes full of sand, and then you are ready to do things. Then in Z-town, the stores are small and spread apart and sell different items, so you have to walk between them to buy needed items. Its good to have a

folding cart. This is one example of how things are different when you live at anchor. It's not the hassle, we enjoy that, but it is the time required getting things done. Just to get to town to buy a loaf of bread takes about ½ hour, and in the states, you just stop along the way.

In Zhautanaejo, there are different shopping areas. The one for the tourists, and the one for the Mexicans. We have found the one for the Mexicans are cheaper, so we shop there. The tourist area is right near where the cruise ships come in, so it is geared to trinkets, and such for souvenirs. Well, actually it's more than trinkets, but it does not have tiendas (stores) for food, and normal clothes and such. So when I shop for food, I go across town to the pork store, then the beef store, then the chicken store, then the bread store, then the can food store, then the paper store, then the other stores. It takes all day and lots of walking, and hauling stuff, cause your on foot. Think about buying groceries for the week with only your arms and pull cart to haul the stuff. I bring Pat along to help haul. Our friends on LaZarder (Earl and Francie Daniels) have said that Earl becomes the burro, Pat can relate to this. Trying to stock up for the cruise north, about a month before we get to PV, he came along two times. It is a very different experience to get all this stuff without cars and regular grocery stores. In any event, we did do more here than go shopping.

We have been sailing four times; we have been snorkeling as much as is possible. This last trip out, we went to Isla Grande, this is about 3 hours from the z-town harbor. There are reefs there, and at high tide, the water is clear. The Fish are used to people and have zero fear, you can reach out and touch them, I didn't but friends did, I kept missing them. Anyway, other folks feed them tortillas, and the fish that came to feed were so thick that you could barley see the person through a fog of fish. The colors of these tropical fish are brilliant and its like being in an aquarium. Snorkeling will be an experience that falls on the top of my list of favorite things to do. I just got one of the one-time use underwater cameras; so more fun will follow.

On the subject of pictures, I know there are folks who have asked us to send pictures over the net, and it is on our list of things to do, but they days fly buy, and we haven't retrieved our scanner and set it up again. It will happen, but we can't promise when.

Our plan from here is to venture back north. We will be stopping in Manzanillo

along the way to visit with Pat's sister and brother in Santiago Bay in early March. We will then stop in Puerto Vallarta again, for the Banderas Bay Ragatta, then head north across the Sea to La Paz, stopping along the way at Mazatlan. We will stop other places as well, but we know for sure that we will spend time in these areas.

Okay, so we have started our trip North. The trip up was not a lot of fun, wind on the nose most of the trip and the seas were about 12 feet, and confused. After about 38 hours of very roly and lumpy seas, we anchored in Santiago Bay. We spent a week in there. This is a bay just north of Manzanillo. It is a Beautiful spot and we meet many cruisers there that thought it was one of their favorite anchorages's. This is good cause next week we go back again to visit Pat's other brother Jamie and his sister Lynn, and spouses and another two couples. It really is quite beautiful. We mostly visited with old friends while we were there. As it turned out Four boats from the SIYC (Sauvie Island Yacht Club) were anchored in the bay at the same time. Us, *Lazader* with Earl and Francie on board, *Sea Tern* with Herman and Nancy, and *Kestrel* with Leslie and Jay. We had a good time sharing sea stories, reminiscing about Portland, the club and the activities. We also were enjoying the fact that we were warm and all our friends up there are wet and cold. HURRY DOWN. This was half of the SIYC boats currently in Mexico. We were missing *Jasmine Isle*, *Moonshadow*, *Dreamweaver*, and *Albion*. We took pictures of the club meeting and will forward it to the club later. We are hoping to meet up with these boats before this season is over. I know some are waiting in PV, and we will see them before the month is out. It is now March, and we plan on being in PV by the 18<sup>th</sup>. Then on to San Blas, Mazatlan and La Paz.

We are now anchored in Barra Navidad. This is a small port city about 30 miles north of Manzanillo. It took about 4 hours to get up here from Santiago Bay. It was a great motor trip, I slept, and the Pats took care of the boat.

In Barra we had a typical day in Mexico. It seams everything takes a long time. We went to the bank. Of coarse, the bank was not located in the town we are in, you had to catch a bus to the next town north, Malaque. However, the bank had a robbery that day and it was closed. So you go to the town to the south, Cihuatalan, only one bank per town here. It was a longer bus ride, about 40 minutes, of riding, but we had a luxury bus with air conditioning on the way down, we took the "chicken" bus back. The "chicken " refers to the quality of

the bus, old, rickety, crowded, hopefully the windows open, and you can meet Mexicans on board with their chickens. Anyway, it became an adventure to get to the bank. We walked about the town a bit while we were there; this is an area with fewer tourists so it was interesting to see a town untouched by tourists. Little English, better prices, more normal day to day items available, and everywhere smiling children. The local cathedral, apparently very famous, was beautiful, (we saw pictures), had been damaged by an earthquake and is in the process of being rebuilt. We had fun, and saw more of the local scenes.

Love to all .... From Perpetua's crew.

## 2. **Log Entry: 4/27/2000 - Update from La Paz before we leave**

Last we sent we were in Barra Navidad. That was around the end of February early March I think. Now we are at the end of April and on the Baja, in LaPaz. Quite a lot has happened, we are getting ready to leave here for the LaPaz Race week activities, and on to the north we go.

Early March found us visiting with Pat's Family that came to Santiago Bay, then we made a fast trip up to Neuvo Vallarta, for the Banderous Bay Ragatta. We were committed to racing and coming in Last. After all someone has to come in last and we have found that we sail much slower than most and to expect anything else is just delusional. We expected only to have fun. At the last minute Susan made a trip to Pa, as her Father was very ill. So she missed the ragatta, but her Dad is doing much better. (sorry to those friends there that I did not contact, way to much going on). In any event, Perpetua became known as the boat that cooked. The first race they made cookies, and came in 1:30 minutes before the ending time, when if they hadn't finished they would have been disqualified. The second day was brownies and they didn't finish. The third day was 2 Pizzas, a cake, and a cheese cake and didn't finish. Try as they might the officials were not to be bribed. Perpetua took more water over the deck during the first race then in the entire trip to date. Also, she carried Mexican students and a couple of young girls from a friends boat, plus some friends of our, for a total crew of 9.

Next was a fast trip to Mazatlan. We made two stops. One at Punta Mita at the end of Banduars Bay. This was a nice little town and a quaint anchorage. The second was at

Metanchen Bay, just an overnight stop. This location is outside San Blas, which is on a river. If we'd more time we could of gone into the river estuary and anchored for a while, maybe next year. We spent a week of fast exploring Mazatlan and preparing for the crossing of the sea. Pat's brother was down with his daughters, so we ran around town with them and our friends that were in Mazatlan. With folks from the marina, we took a bus trip to a small town, El Quelite, about 25 miles from Mazatlan. There we saw a 300 year old church, a fighting cock farm, an exhibition of horse riding and a mock cock fight. We toured an old bakery, with a traditional stone oven, a couple of hunderd year homes. We had lunch at a hascenda (bed and breakfast). Finally an exhibition of ball game that required the players to pass the ball back and forth by hitting it with their hips! It's a very old game and when it was played for real the winners lost their heads! Need less to say no one lost their heads that day.

We needed to get across the sea, as there was Mexican visa issues had to be dealt with, prior to the end of April. These were best taken care of in La Paz.

So, after 4000 miles of sea time we finally had our BAD crossing. We have been overdue and been very fortunate until now. The seas were steep, very steep, and very short, about a 6 - 10 foot swell with a four to five foot chop on top. Moreover, they came about every three seconds. Way to short for comfort. And the winds were at 15 - 25 + knots on the bow. In any event by the time we realized that maybe we should be going some other direction, we were 100 miles from all destinations, so we just continued. Our 48 hour trip took 66 hours. Susan was sick for 40 of those hours, and was no help to the crew. Both Pat's took over her watches for her, one great thing about having a crew of three. She doesn't normally get sea sick, but this was too much for her. The boat pounded as she has never pounded before, and we did find a few new leaks, and the mast was rocking a bit. Actually we took green water over top of the pilot house many times, green water over the main deck most of the time, a over the bows just about every wave. Susan was seriously considering RV's as a permanent solution to this problem. However, it had to happen, no one goes out here and has all good crossings. It is impossible. So, the boat handled it, and so did we. And now we will know next time to change coarse sooner, before the 100 miles limit.

We tied up to our friends on Jasmine Isle, another boat from Portland, at 1:00 am Friday morning. We had left Mazatlan Tuesday morning at 7:00 am. We needed this emotional lift so it was good that we found friends at the end of this trial.

We have been here a week and have been very busy. First, it took two days to unpack

and dry out all the storage and bilge areas. Then we needed to do laundry and food shopping. We made a side trip to Buena Vista to visit with Jasmile Isle's folks and pick up a replacement battery for our boat that they had brought with them from Portland in December. Next, we visited with some boating friends from Portland and that were in La Paz for a visit. Now it was time get our visia fixed and to fix some damage done to the boat during the crossing and provision for our trip to La Paz race week and beyond, up into the sea of Cortez. Our final destination for this year will be San Carlos where we'll leave the boat while we return to the states. However first we a tend the Loreto Festival and see some of the delights of the sea of Cortez.

We may not be able to find an internet café for our Yahoo emails, so if we're out of touch not to worry. We can still use our Sailmail email.

Love to all .... From Perpetua's crew.

### **3. Log Entry: 7/23/2000 - Update from the "dirt boat" in KOA Campground, Ann Arbor, Michigan .. Wow what a difference.**

Well, one thing we never thought we would run out of.. Time. However, I am always running short. I guess the old rule is true, what you have you will use up. Seems like this year is still a whirlwind. And I Was afraid I'd be bored. NOT..

I look at our logs guessing we'd be updating from when we hit the States in June, silly me seems we haven't sent out anything since La Paz. Quite a ways back. So, with all that said, here goes.

La Paz, Mexico saw the stern of Perpetua about the end of April. With Our friends on Jasmine Isle, Kim and Chris Taylor. Our friends Robert and Linda Noe were aboard as well as a the parts to a wooden shid/head (toilet) on Perpetua's deck. Yes, Pat volunteered to carry it to the La Paz Race weeks activities. We went out to an Island called Isla Partida for race week. It's a week of festivities, fun and sun in crystal clear waters. We could see our anchor in 20 feet of water. They elected a King and Queen of Race week, had sailing races (we did not participate), had numerous Pot Lucks, and a progressive (from boat to boat for different courses) dinner. We also went for dinghy rides,

snorkeled, went hiking and just sat. Since Pat and I have been there twice before on other friends boats, it was quite a happening to get ours there. Kind of a dream come true.. Isla Partida is one of those places that when they tell you to relax and think of a beautiful spot, it was where I went. It's situated in an extinct volcanic crater. On one side is an opening to the sea and on the other side of the bay, there's a cut with a sandy isthmus and a tidal stream running through it. The sun rises in one cut and sets in the other, the winds always blow lightly through the gaps making it comfortable even when hot. Coupled with warm clear water it was had to leave after a week. We'll be back next season!

When the week was over, we had to push north, as the sailing community was about to do it all over again in Loreto, at the Loreto Fest, at Puerto Escondito. Darn. We just had to go. However, on the way we stopped at some beautiful places. I now fully understand how cruisers can get stuck in Mexico, and go no further. It is a Wonderfully beautiful country, with Green on the mainland, and Dessert on the Baja. What more could you ask for?

Our first anchorage after Isla Partida was at Isla San Fransisco. A crescent shaped beach so white and the water so blue, you'd think it was a postcard. We dropped our anchor, hiked to the top of the hills, took pictures, met the other cruisers there, had a beach gathering, sang songs, around a fire, and looked for shells and agates, found lots. Oh, and I can't forget more snorkeling. The water temp was about 79 or 80.

Next was Espiritu Sanitu, a small anchorage, where we just spent the night. Then on to Agua Verde. We spent three days there, snorkeling again, and our friends on Sea Tern had us get out our sail board, and we got lessons, from them on how and what to do. They are far better at this than we were, so most of the time we watched them. Our next stop was Loreto Fest, where Walt and Virginia came to visit, and the week was fun and festive.

After Puerto Escondito we went on to a bay called San Jaunico Cove home of the Crusiers Shrine. The shrine consists of a tree singled out years ago. On and around the tree cruisers have left momentos of their passing this area. Some very curious items were left: like a bra, boat parts, yachting flags, hats and a many other items. People made chimes from shells carving in the sand stone found near by, and on and on. It was fun to review all the momentos left by previous cruisers. The tree that holds them is heavy with things.

We left a shell with our names painted and a boat card in plastic attached to it. We'll stop by next season and see if it is still there. However, for the past ten years or so, Pat has had a picture, of this very bay, on his desk, at work. The picture had a cactus and a trimaran in the foreground/background. So, it has been his goal.. to get a picture of our trimaran there. The picture was gotten.

From there, it was time to head further north onto San Carlos near, Gauymas on the mainland. We did this, for the safety of being, at an inland marina and then to put Perpetua to bed for four months. June 1 to November 1 is hurricane season down south of the border and the further north one gets the safer you are.

We arrived there after another crossing of the Sea Cortez, this time a very good crossing. We even caught a 40" Dorrado, and ate fish tacos on the way across. The list to put a boat to bed is extensive, and we were busy in 90 degree heat for a week. Then off to the airport and Portland.

As this is getting a tad long, and is just a travel log at this point, I will be brief on the rest of the trip.

- So far since returning to the states we've:
  - visited in Portland, friends and family
  - saw my oldest daughter (Jenica) graduate from college in Mommouth
  - bought an 29' RV in Portland (our "Dirt Boat")
  - traveled to and visited family in Bothell, Wash.
  - traveled to and visited family in St. Paul, Mn.; doing tourist stuff along the way, mostly in South Dakota
  - traveled in Wisconsin; the upper part of Mich.; the west coast of Mich. along lake Huron; doing tourist stuff along the way.
  - we are currently in an RV park in Ann Arbor Mich.
- Future plans include:
  - the Henry Ford Museum tomorrow, in Dearborn, Mi.
  - travel along lake Errie through Cleveland, Oh. then onto to Niagara Falls, NY., a thorough
  - tour of both sides of the falls and quickly see lake Ontario
  - from there South to New Holland, Pa. for a visit with more family.

- sometime in early Sept. we'll end up close to Dallas, Tx. for another family visit
- then back to the boat in late Sept. or early Oct.

Pat's younger kids (Patrick/Lydia) are traveling with us and we're all having fun. (which is a relative thing) That about wraps it up. More than I had ever imagined. Less time to spare than ever planned. But all in all having a great time.

Love to all .... From Perpetua's crew.

#### **4. Log Entry: 11/12/00 - Update from the "REAL boat" in San Carlos Marina, Sonora Mexico**

When last we wrote we were in Michigan, and that was quite some time and MANY miles ago.

In total we put 10,500 miles on the RV. Where we have been in short order, (going into all the detail will take too much space and time.)

- traveled along lake Huron to Dearborn, Mi.
- went to the Henry Ford Museum, in Dearborn, Mi.
- traveled along lake Erie through Cleveland, Oh. Then onto to Niagara Falls, NY., a thorough tour of both sides of the falls and quickly see lake Ontario
- South to Corning, NY and the Corning Glass Museum. A must see if you head this way ever.
- A visit to Penn's Cave in Pa
- Then South to New Holland, Pa. for a visit with Susan's family, Gettysburg, Longwood Gardens, Philadelphia and the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall, and of coarse Hershey PA, Cause I love Chocolate. Also, a visit at the Crayola factory and the canal barge museum in Easten, PA.
- A visit with dear friends in PA we hadn't seen for a year, and treated to dinners in their respective homes. Thanks, Sue Anne and Tom, and Ted and Eddie.

- Lydia left us in Baltimore, L and flew back to Oregon for the school year.
- Then on to Luray Caverns, Va.
- Cape Hatteras, North Carolina for a three days rest, beach walking and Ocean sunrises. Took the "dirt boat" on two fairy boats rides to get off the outer banks, to arrive in Beaufort NC. In Wilmington, NC. Went aboard the battleship North Carolina.
- On to Charleston, South Carolina and visits to Yorktown air craft carrier, and Fort Sumptner, where the first shot of the Civil War occurred.
- Stone Mountian Atlanta, Georgia, next recommend by friends in PA. Good recommendation.
- Atlanta, Ga saw the under ground city (mall), CoCola factory and the civil war cyclorama of the Atlanta battle.
- On the way to Panama City, Florida for Labor day weekend we saw the Mugwee indian mounds/settlement.
- WHEW, writing all this down makes me appreciate it more.
- Then on through Mississippi to Vicksburg, and more Civil war sites.
- And finally a two and ½ week rest with family in McKinney Texas. Boy did we need it. Lynn was afraid we were bored, but I was glad to be off the road for a bit. We had a great time and Thanks a lot for all your hospitality.
- Next was a quick trip through the rest of TX, and on to see Carlsbad Caverns. They have a Bat flight at night and over three hundred thousand Bats emerge form the cave at dusk quite a spectacle.
- A stop in Roswell (UFO Central) New Mexico for Patrick. On his birthday no less. Now he is 18.
- A trip through the Painted Desert and Petrified Forrest in Az, and on to the Grand Canyon.
- After all this we stopped in Phoenix to see a good friend, and then we moved on to Tucson.
- In Tucson, we had our last stops at Wal-Mart, Food stores, and such to provision for the coming season in Mexico. We had the RV's brakes fixed, and we moved into Mexico from there.

Finally, Back to the boat. (Oct. 5) She was in good shape and had weathered the "Heat" quite nicely. Since it hits over 105 for some time here in the summer, we had been concerned that this may cause problems. But old Perpetua is doing fine. We had some things that we had to do to her, for the coming season,. After

Six weeks of undoing the "put her to bed" process, hauling her out and painting the bottom, doing some fiber glass work and painting, we are once again ready to put out to sea. The Sea of Cortez that is.

We have had great visits here with Sea Turn, Lazader, Mi Casa, and Jasmine Isle, and other friends we have met along the way. Arriving back at San Carlos are many cruisers from the previous year, and it is fun to get reacquainted and find out all they have been up to in the past summer. We all have trouble getting our summers and winter seasons backwards. Now we are used to the heat, and 70 degrees feels cold.

In contrast to the RV life, the Boat life isn't that much different. Less expensive as we are in Mexico, but the gypsy life style is still in existence, albeit at a much slower pace. I think I do like the slower pace and water better, but the luxury of the RV is nice as well. Similar, but yet very different.

We will try to be more diligent in getting email updates out, now that we are back to a slower pace and easier life style. More to follow from the sea. Coming attraction: Update on the trip down the other side of the Baja, San Carlos to La Paz.

Love to all .... From Perpetua's crew.

## **5. Log Entry: 12/22/00 - Update from the San Carlos -- Puerto Vallarta "Paradise Village Marina"**

So, Now that we've been back on the boat for a while, I thought we would bring you up to date on our adventures. The Sea of Cortez was amazing, the trips across this time were pleasant, and the whales we have seen quite amazing, oh and the fish we have caught or not caught. So given the overview, I'll start with leaving San Carlos.

After six long hot weeks of work and some play, we were off. Finally back on the move, we were beginning to think it would never happen. But it did and we were off at 4:00 PM for an overnight passage from the mainland to the Baja . We expected the passage to take 23 hours, and so when we had some wind and

were able to hit 7 knots under motor sail (low RPMS for the Auto helm) we were pleased. The trip took just under 18. What a ride. The seas were lumpy, and that's why we keep the motor running to help out Auto. But it was a gorgeous night sail and the seas were smooth enough that NO one got sick. A good start. We anchored in Puerto Ballandra on Isla Carmen, directly across from Loreto, Baja and found our friends on Jasmine Isle.

We stayed there for five days to relax after the big push. I fished from the dingy, but to no avail. Our friends caught them, but none for us. The next day we left for Puerto Escondido. On the way we were treated to a Dolphin show. All at once, about 12 of them swimming around our bows, for about 15 minutes or so. You could hear them talking and they would swim on their sides and look directly at you. I think they are very curious animals. Some of them even left us a trail as they "did their business".

A turkey dinner was planned in Escondido, for about 90 cruising boats. They were to have five turkeys, cooked Hawaiian style in the ground. BUT..... They never got done so as all good cruisers, we started with dessert. Then , worked our way up to the vegetables and other dishes brought for sharing. Fun was had by all and it will surly be a Thanksgiving to remember, even it was a "vegetarian" one!

The trip south to Agua Verde was uneventful, and another time where you find yourself motoring. We sure do more of that, then we thought we would. Make sure if your coming by boat to have light air sails, and a boat that goes in light air. Poor old Perpetua likes 15 knots or better. However, we haven't yet learned how to use our Spinnaker well, we need some practice using it and then plan on using it more in the future. We think that will help solve our problem of light air. The Spin drifter and Mizzen Stay sail are just not enough to push her. Also learning how to be patient because if you do sail it will be usually under 5 knots, sometimes under 3.

From Agua Verde to Isla San Francisco was a tremendously wonderful passage. Not because we were moving well, but the sea was full of Life. First we were treated to Dolphins, and next we were treated to three pods of Pilot whales, of over 15 per pod. They are slow moving and while they seem to want to follow us, we think they were just curious, and followed for just a short time. They were quite close to the boat and we got some good video.

We have been told by Patrick, that everything happens on his watch and if I try and catch fish while I'm up, they don't seem to hit, so I took a nap and about 3:00PM, Patrick yells.. Fish on, it was his watch. So up I flew, and the lure I've been waiting to catch something on had a monster at the other end. Such a fish. He was diving deep and deep and did not want to come in. After about 10 minutes of fighting, he came to the surface, and decided to circle. I was afraid he would land in our propeller, but he circled to the outside of the boat. We got our first look at him then an realized it was a tuna. Large. So, after another two or three minutes, I reeled him in, Patrick got out our Gaffe hook, and grabbed him by the side. Being the novices fisher people we are, we said, so what kind of Tuna is this. After conversations on the radio with friends, and book searching, we declared it a Yellow fin Tuna. We bleed it and Filleted it within 20 minutes or so of Catching it. It was the most Wonderful Tuna I have ever eaten!. We ate it for three days and even feed company (8).

After the tuna excitement, and while I was cleaning it, a whale surfaced, just off our starboard (right) side. A very large whale, (30 – 40 feet) after much book searching we determined it to be a Fin Whale, It was traveling at the same speed as we and stayed with us playing around the boat for about 45 minutes. Oh, and there were the other two whales off our Port side, doing the same thing. They left a tad earlier than the Starboard whale did. When he left, he actually followed the boat about 60 feet off the stern, rolling from side to side and enjoying the bubbles in our wake. What a terrific treat, and what a day. We feel it doesn't get better than this. When we first started seeing whales, I was frightened by their size and afraid we would bump into them. Now, I realize they are quite aware of the boat, and when they swim in front, they are like dolphins, and don't get near enough for collisions. Of course then we haven't met any sleeping whales yet, and you must be ever watchful for them.

We arrived late at Isla San Francisco, stayed a couple of days. You could see your anchor on the bottom in 20 feet of water.

We then went to Ensenada El Cardonel, on Isla Partida. We stayed there a couple of days. Did some hiking, sight seeing and visiting other boaters. There is an ancient fish coral made of piled up stones, the people must of somehow herded the fish through gates into the areas, at low tide, then caught their fish. It was fun trying to understand how it worked.

Next we moved onto La Paz. The trip was uneventful except for the three jacks we caught, and during one episode when we had two fish on at once, my eyeglasses popped off my (Susan) head went into the drink. Fortunately, I had a spare pair!

We stayed in La Paz for about 5 days. During our visit, I got to the "weavers". There they still weave wool rugs and beautiful other fabrics by Loom. I was treated to a demonstration of the weaving Looms. They stand about 12 feet tall. All wood, and about eight feet wide. The fabric created is beautiful, intricately woven, and they even make their one thread. Spinning wheels were there, and we saw that they had other thread made up as well. Quite an operation. Of course, I bought a rug runner for our solon floor. We celebrated my birthday, with friends from Sea Tern and Jasmine Isle. They treated me to a cake and Ankle Bracelet. Patrick made up a "special" pair of fishing glasses to replace the ones I lost. Great fun!

We left La Paz early on a Tuesday Morning. We decided to travel to Los Muertos and then stay overnight and then on to Mazatlan. On the way to Bahia Los Muertos we caught 6 fish.

- A Ceirra that we didn't know was one until we through it back, and then checked the book
- 3 Jacks which we threw back
- a huge Dorado that jumped three times, shocking us, and then it spit the hook
- and finally a little, 2' Dorado, that we ate as soon as we got to Los Muertos.

We left at 9 AM the next morning, so no shore visits. We had good winds so we sailed for 117 miles averaging 6.2 knots. Then the wind died and we motor sailed the remaining miles. The projection was 189 miles, 38 hours at 5 knots and we did it in 33.4 hours, over all average was 5.7 knots. We made it in here by 6 PM on Wednesday, we hit the showers and slept like rocks. However, on the way across we lost 2 cedar plugs that we had got in La Paz and then couldn't find any in Mazatlan. The first one was lost to a 48" Yellow Fin tuna. We had it up to the stern and could not lift it out of the water, it was that heavy. While trying to gaffe it, it broke the 50LB test line and took everything with it. The second plug was taken off a drag line and we never saw what took it! Just

the bite marks in the steel leader!

Since each person experiences a trip differently, and Patrick is a budding writer, I've decided to add his excerpts to our updates. The following is the trip as Patrick experienced it...

We left quite early on the 6th to make our 2 day crossing to Mazatlan. Less than pleasant. We had about a ten foot swell and winds to twenty. The waves were on our backs, as was the wind, so it was not too bad at all. We sailed without the motor for 117 miles (over a 24 hours), which is great but unusual for our boat. It does not like to sail alot.

The first day was pretty bland.

At the midnight to 3 watch, my watch, I got passed by a ship and there was no good stars due to the moon. It was cold though. I had to use a blanket. It was like 70 again.

My next watch put me at 9 AM to noon. We hooked a giant fish. I had to help Susan reel in the fish. It took a long time but we finally had it to the stern of the boat. Biggest fish my eyes ever beheld! It was a Yellow finned tuna, like the one we caught a few weeks ago. It was well over 4 feet long and a foot or more thick! it would have feed us for the next week!

I was helping Susan hold it up, my job is usually to thrust a large hook or Gaffe into the fish and bring it over the life lines and onto the deck. Dad, who had never gaffed a fish in his life, was given the task. He swung and swung with little success.

Whack!

He hit the tuna, but only hit it, it did not puncture the fish.

The fish then proceeded into a death roll in a last ditch effort to escape the tyranny of us hoodlums. It worked! The line broke, and there went the prize along with our lure.

I latter pulled in and dehooked a skipjack. Tossed it over the side.

Other than that, our trip was easy and not worth mentioning. I read my book on the second day because I could not sleep. It is almost done. I hate the feeling of the drawing of the end of a book. I find so few that I like to read, that I have to search and find another to read. It also means that I will never again learn more of my Spartan friends that I have secured in the book.

The sun set was too good for words. I took multiple pictures and a large shrimp boat came by, so I got that in the picture too.

We got to the Marina in Mazatlan after dark, but 12 hours early!

We spent five days in Mazatlan, visited with friends on Dreamweaver and Capricious II, shopped, and relaxed; not much else. Our slip had no water or power. We were glad to be across the sea and it was finally getting warmer.

Patrick's experience of Matzalan ....

Hola from Mazatlan-

Mazatlan, I am pleased to inform you, has many great restaurants. I have seen my share already. I find that the beef fijitas are my favorite dish. Everything about them just sits right in my eager stomach. Shrimp cocktails are in no short supply down here either, and I can't let them just go bad, so I had to help devour some...only a few...maybe more than a few...

I can also happily tell you that there is a surplus of theaters too. Although watching the movies down here can be an experience onto itself. I was lucky this time. I have been in some that allow their shelly friends, the cockroaches, to scurry about the place. On open flan, jello, cans, pop corn and the like...So be careful and watch a minute before you buy.

Most movies are played in English with Spanish subtitles, which is perfectly A-OK, unless the movie is in Europe and they begin to

talk in Latin...then the Spanish subtitles become not so friendly any more. Another tip, bring a dictionary and take speed reading classes.

The chairs are fit for a king, though. They are very soft cushioned swinging recliners! Like a lazy boy, I don't mean me, but they fit me well. However, in Z-town the seats are basically a wooden crate, so scout ahead.

In order to get to the movies and food servers, you need a car right? Or one can ride on the local bus. For about 30 cents, you too can ride on for all intents and purposes seems like a roller coaster! Oh, and don't sit by the wheels, because then your no longer on a roller coaster, you are now in a washer in LA during the BIG one. Experience speaks for itself.

The only other thing I did so far in Mazatlan, was something I had never thought I would be doing. Twenty years ago on the 8th, John Lennon was shot. I was -2 then. Oh, how I loved him then!

Anyway, I was fortunate enough to go to a John Lennon concert that day in the year of our lord twenty hundred and zero, as they used to say. It was great. John Lennon was pretty good. They had to resurrect him, so it was odd. He was also much bigger. His head was twice that of my body! John was, of course-as you guessed right?-, a poster. The bands were honoring him by playing his music, in a plaza. This one guy was very good. Sounded like Lennon himself. You should have seen the size of these speakers! They were almost as big as a large shoe box! Size 18?

Oh. Well, they were pretty big. Two men high and 3 wide sounds good. There were over a dozen of them though. It got loud. Susan tore me and dad away before we wanted to leave, unfortunately, but what can you do. It was free as well. Can't get much better than that.

There was a ratio of about 1 American to ever 7 Mexicans there and it was packed. He was real big down here.

We left Mazatlan and we ready to go straight to Punta Mita, at the entrance to Banderas Bay. However, we had a slight detour.

A plastic onion Bag got wrapped around our prop as we were nearing the USS Constitution. (Aircraft Carrier), that was anchored in Mazatlan Harbor. It sounded like we hit something, and the engine while it would not go to high RPMs. However, when we did reeve it up, the Prop vibrated and it sounded like something was hitting the hull near the prop. So we lowered RPMs to about 1100, (we usually do about 2300), and limped at 1 - 2 knots into Mazatlan Harbor. Of course this was slowewd down by an outgoing tide, so it took about an hour to go 2 miles. In route, we called the local diver, on the radio, and after a two-hour wait, not bad for Mexican time, he showed up and removed a plastic sack from the prop. It was heavy mesh type, like a gunny sack, only Plastic. We were on our way again by about 4:00 PM, and anchored at Punta Mita the following night at 8:30 PM. Overall it was a good trip, except there was no wind to speak of and we motored the whole way.

On Thursday the 14th, we went into Paradise Village Marina, our favorite spot and the Lap of Luxury. Patrick's version of the trip follows....

We were motoring toward Paradise Village and Dad, who is keen on whales, blurted out some profound words that were quite musical to the hearing appendages:

"Whale Signs!"

I turned and to my surprised amazement, there, still a ways a way, were multiple boogies. I grabbed the camera and the binoculars and dashed to the bow, where I sat and watched in splendid fascination.

The Binoculars are terrific little spyglasses. You could see the nose hairs of a drunken old sailor a mile away. I, of course, was more interested in the whales than that of lucky Bob the sailor.

Dad threw the boat into a ninety degree turn and pushed it into full throttle to close in on the massive behemoths.

I have not looked up in our reference cards the type of whales that

were seen this day, but from experience and first glancing, these were humpbacks.

The spectacles were too far away yet for my camera, I know this too from experience. Post-development, they look like dirt specks on my lens. I have always wanted a camera like Susan's, one that has a 3 foot zoom lens...or so. She never uses the thing. She runs out with this little 2 inch wide Advantex film camera that has a smaller zoom than my camera.

I nearly collapsed. I raised an eyebrow, looked at dad-who saw no error in her ways. It was not a horrible mistake. An easy one in fact. I, being the camera wielding Marinero, must jump ahead and guide the non-Marinero amigos. I then said slowly and softly, hiding all immediate impulses to toss her camera over board, "Susan. Would not now be a good time...a good time to use your big camera?"

She thought about it a moment and ran down below. She praised me for my recommendation later. In the mean time, I handled the video camera.

I got 1 breach, where it jumps, and multiple tail flaps and fin flaps.

This was the odd part about it all. It was like some mating ritual, although dad says it was just an eating thing. For nearly five minutes, one would violently slap its colasal fin up and down while the second one laid on it's back and made motions that are best described as the following...

Place your arms straight out in front of you, the quickly swing them perpendicular to your body (If laying on a bed you look like a big cross).

For an interval of 5 minutes they would do this, take a breather and do it again. Sometimes breaching in between. They were there for a long time.

We got close enough for my camera and I took a half a roll of film, while I was still videoing It was hard to do, but doable.

It was very neat. We watched them and other sets of whales for a good 30 minutes to an hour.

After the whales, we entered our resort, or Paradise away from paradise, our sanctuary, our sole luxury in Mexico.

Paradise Village Marina. It consists of one of the most expensive hotels in all of the northern half of Mexico. A marina sits, in a lagoon, in its back sides. Every time we near here we stop for 3 weeks. You can use the 3 pools, spas, weight rooms, all the facilities, the water toys (jet skis, surf boards, kayak, stuff like that) but most importantly, you get cable TV, power and even more interesting, the excellent showers.

This is our treat for the year. The rest will be mostly anchorages. So we are enjoying our Pools, the beach, and will take some tours while we are here.

Our bus and boat tour of the Huichol (pronounced which-ill) Indian Village again it is best described by Patrick...

On the 21st I took a bus tour into the main land to see the Huichol (whichall) Indians in their customs.

We were told to be at a bus stop at 7:15. The bus got there at 8:30. It was an hour well spent, that could have been spent sleeping. They gave us a breakfast as we got on: a ham sandwich and an apple...at 8:30!

Our group was 16 people, an average is 50 some odd people. We got lucky. During the 2 hr ride to Tepic, our Canadian guide gave us a history lesson. The Huichols are direct descendents of the Aztec peoples. In almost every way there are the same. One distinct difference is that they sacrifice animals instead of people now. They are not under the government power and live in the Sierra Madre, or lower Rocky Mountains.

In Tepic, we were spiritually cleansed by two Shamans from the Huichol tribe. 1 male; 1 female. They hovered a wand with eagle feathers on it all over us. If you told them of a problem he would concentrate his powers to heal that. Dad, who ask if he could help his bum hip, was rubbed on his high thigh with a peyote concoction. Peyote is an illegal drug for hallucinations made from cacti. Only the Huichols can own any (however dad bought some of the concoction at the store, so I think that law is shoddy).

Our next stop was the Aguamllpa dam, the largest Hydro Electric dam in all of the Americas. We got another sandwich for brunch and a soda. Good view all the way. We rode through mountains and rain forest type scenery. I took many photos. The dam's setting was terrifically beautiful, very powerful images.

We rode in Pangas (20 ft fishing boats that do 40-60MPH) for eight miles on the reservoir to the location of their village. Then there was a large hike up to the summit plateau and the village. Dad and Susan were separated, from me because I got in a Panga and they in a different one due to the order of our standing positions in line.

We hiked up a hill, and at the top we were told not to take any pictures of the Indians, they believed it stole part of their soul. It was very neat. Their homes were unique. Each had a kitchen house and a shack on stilts for a room. All the family slept together.

The homes were made from wood, adobe bricks, mud cement and what ever they could buy. The roofs were not made to hold back the rain. It rains for three months too! They were for the sun. Made from roofing paper, metal, wood, and tiles; again, what ever they could get. Their property was all fenced in. This is for the wolves to stay in and the wolves to stay out.

The people were very nice. Their art is also unique and very pretty. I got a nice bowl 3 inches in diameter. There are small beads imbedded in beeswax inside. They use very nice thread work.

The hike down was easy and the ride was fun. Dad and Susan again

got in the other Panga. Beautiful lake. Like something out of the Bijou in Louisiana. Marshlands and yet swampy but dry. Too cool!

We ate "lunch" at 5 at a hotel in Tepic. Fejitas de pollo (chicken fejitas). Quite good, but breakfast filled me up. We toured Tepic and they bought many art objects. We left at 7:30 PM. The ride back was long, foggy and dark. Finally we got back at 11 PM or so. The next day I was fatigued to the point of ludicrously. So that was the 21st.

We also visited a small town market and then there are repairs . Our shop vacuum died, and so did our Alternator.. So Patrick again has the best description,, maybe I should just start having him write these updates..? J

This is my adventures from the 26th.

Me and Susan went with Nancy (Sea Tern) by dinghy to a different Marina. From there we walked 1-2 miles into a Mexican town. The Hike, if it could be called that, was pretty good. We walked along a deserted road at times and trees of varying beauties rimmed the streets.

Bushes, flowers and trees spread out in all directions. From my first glance it appeared as though we had taken a road through a jungle. The sidewalk was, in fact, a flood director; it dropped off to a 8 ft drop into a lowered valley. Trees and plants engulfed the pathway from both sides, creating a jungle trail effect in a canopy. You had to move them away with your hands to get a clear road.

On the distant horizon, a vast mountain range, the Sierra Madre, lay across the land. I was in awe after each step. Ruins of unfinished buildings covered all that was not greenery.

After crossing under a barbed wire fence, we were into the out skirts of town. The sky was hazy and the sun never materialized. Children played, men worked, women cleaned and cooked.

We hit the heart of the town and came to a flea market of sorts.

They sold anything from Barbie's, to hair wear, to clothes, to CD players, to vegetables and fish. If you needed it, it was there. This entourage of goods covered 2-5 blocks! My favorite portion was the food stands. I got a Chile Rheino. A giant green pepper stuffed with cheese and fried in egg whites. It was better than my beloved fijitas!

The walk back was tiring.

When we got back, Dad told us that the Alternator, or charger for the batteries, was dead. He had been fooling around with it, while we were at the flea market. Dad had removed the part from the engine, Susan and I volunteered to take it into town. Dad took a nap, while Susan and I began an excursion into town to locate a repair shop.

The bus ride was 20 minutes long. We rode it until the end of it's line.

We had an address when we got off the bus. We asked an info booth, 4 cab drivers and common men where Puerto Rico Street was. Not a soul could help us.

We walked many many blocks with a map that had no street named P.R. on it. We hailed another taxi and got the idea that it was Costa Rica instead. He drove us there and yelled out the window to some guy. He told us that indeed it was close.

We finally found it. We left the alternator there and he told us to come back tomorrow. We had a vacuum that was in need of repair too. He pointed us in the right direction and we trekked another bunch of blocks. Over a bridge that crossed a highway, over a canal and passed many buildings...there we found it. He spoke zero English. He said tomorrow. Great. So we bussed back to the marina, a long day.

The next day it started pouring rain at 4 AM. My room was drenched and all of my belongings as well. Nothing valuable

ruined, but not a happy boy was I. At 3pm we went again with dad. We knew where to go and took a taxi. The Alt. guy said no fixy, but his son drove us to his friends for free. Susan followed in the taxi and then picked up the vacuum.

The new guy said it was just fine and replaced the bearings. He spoke zero English. Tuff to get a point across that it was busted. He said he'd come to the boat in the morning. The vacuum was great now. Once back to the boat, we installed the Alt.

The next day, today, he showed up **on time**. He tested things and unplugged others. He looked up and said Muerto, dead, and pointed to the Alt. Dad removed it for the second time and he took it to his shop and came back in 2 hr. It was fixed! He replaced the diodes. Dad then reinstalled it for the second time! 57 dollars was all. After our visit to the shop and 2 house calls! Very good price I am told.

So, that was the Alternator story. For more, send \$20 to the address listed above and shipping and handling to the Pat guy.

Well here's another first it has rained here for 3 days, just like Oregon! However it was in the low 70's each day and now it's sunny and pushing 80. In the last 30 years, this is the 9th time it has rained between xmass and new years. That stat came over the morning net today!

There are plans for fireworks for New Years eve, and we will be on the Beach watching those and all the others planned in the Bay area.

We think of our friends and family at this time and miss all of you. We hope Your holidays were all you had hoped they would be.

Love to all .... From Perpetua's crew.

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# The Adventure Continues in 2001

[Home](#)

[Photos](#)

[The Log](#)

[Links](#)

[Exit](#)

## 2001 Table of Contents

- [1. Log Entry: 02/14/01 - Valentines day ... update from Barra De Navidad](#)
- [2. Log Entry: 05/1/01 - As we leave Mazatlan and Mexico](#)

[Return To The Log Index](#)

## Perpetua's 2001 Log Entries

- 1. Log Entry: 02/14/01 - Valentines day update from Barra De Navidad, Our journey from PV to Barra...**

The News Years Fire works at Paradise Village were thrilling, short, but thrilling as we were sitting about 200 Yards from the launch Pad. They exploded about over our heads. Very loud, and Very bright. We stayed in Paradise Village for the first Half of January, soaking up the good life at the resort. Pools, Beach, Malls, Sam's club, plenty of shopping areas, etc. Even

Domino's Pizza (2 for 1 price on Tuesday) and movie rentals. We found that it was cheaper to stay a month than leave due to the rates for moorage. So darn, we just had to stay. J . In any event the stay was great, and relaxing. Oh, and since we were staying, Susan studied and passed her Ham General Test. Now instead of being just the Admiral, she is the "Admiral - General". ( "HAM") We did some kayaking around the lagoon and through the canals, and that was fun.

Just to let you know that it was not all fun we had to get our alternator fixed through a series of Mexican shops. It took 3 days but we got it working for \$50 US. Also, we had to work on blockages in the toilet .. 2 times (nice job!), this means you disassemble it and clean out the blockages and reassemble it and hope it is working. At lesat it was at a marina where we could clean it on the dock with fresh pressurized water. It's still giving us a minor leak. Great devices these marine toilets! We also worked on the watermaker because it had leaks. We had the Spectra Watermaker rep change out the Surflo pump heads because of a low volume flow problem and replace the GPH gauge because it was leaking.

Once we left Paradise Village we went to La Cruz and visited with friends Pat used to work with (on the sailboat Capricious II). They have a Jazz concert in La Cruz every Monday night, great Ribs and great fun. We left there and went to Punta Mita, at the northern mouth of Banderas Bay.. There we restarted up our water maker again, and noticed a marked decrease in water quality. Still drinkable, but less than happy with the quality, we began to wonder what was going on, but as long as it was good enough to drink, we would have to deal with it later, and later we did. We enjoyed Punta Mita and our friends on Sea Tern meet up with us there. We were staying in Banderas Bay waiting for them for the cruise down further south. We spent a day on Sea Tern visiting the Las Tres Marietas islands. We were going to go snorkling but it was to cloudy and too rough to land on the island at the few places available. We had a nice day on their boat and sailed back to the anchorage at Punta Mita. We saw whales on the way back as well. The cape Cabo Corrientes, on the southern end of Banderas Bay is know for rough weather, so there was plenty of discussion about when to leave, and listening on the Ham nets for weather forecasts. We set our date to leave in the early evening Thursday the 25<sup>th</sup> of Jan. And then it got dicey..

On Thursday 1/25/01 we left Punta Mita about 4:30 PM for a trip across the

bay, past Point Cabo Corrientes and on to Bahia Chamela. We were sailing with Sea Tern. And we actually put up our spinnaker. Along the way out, we had to pass The Las Tres Marietas Islands in the center of Banderas Bay. Sea Tern told us the sea was lumpy, so we took down the spinnaker (a lucky break, read on). Anyway we were a half mile off the islands. A full half a mile, and the water went to 40 feet, then 30 feet, I sent Patrick below to see if Pat knew about any reefs in the area, and before I got an answer, I said heck with it and turned to port, to ver away. Lucky I did, but not lucky enough. Boom went the boat, (at 5.5 knots no less), and we stopped dead. Just after that, Patrick came up and said Pat said I guess so! We believe the GPS position for the rock or whatever we hit is about 20°42.296N, 105°33.683W.

Next came a lovely wonderful swell and we floated free. So what to do now?? By now Pat had arrived on deck and upon looking over the side said "well we lost the thing.." I thought he meant the rudder, he was staring off to the stern, I looked and low and behold there was our worm shoe, floating free. Since we paid umteen bucks for this appendage, Pat said lets go get it, well it's 14 foot long 7 inches deep and a foot wide, made of solid cedar. How to get it on the boat?

To digress from the story, our worm shoe is a large piece of cedar that we added to the bottom of the keel to allow us to go to windward better. A solid piece of cedar, and it was attached with Lag bolts and 3M 5200 adhesive right to the bottom of our keel. It has been there since 1988. We are now draw 7 inches less.

So, Patrick and I Launched the dingy, jumped in (with Lift Jackets). The swell was running about 2 feet but from the dingy it looked about 8 - 10. Once in the dingy it was hard to see the blasted thing, and it was getting very dark, this was about 30 min past sunset. We rowed and rowed and got to it, then What.. Tie a line to it and tow it. Of course there is nothing but a bulk of wood to tie too, so leaning over the edge of the dingy, we each did our duty and Patrick tied the front, and I the back section. Then came the tow. Rowing back, with a fourteen foot Log next to the dingy. What fun for a Thursday.

Well after some trials, back we came through the swell which was large, and the boat was bouncing quite a lot too.. we said well now what.. So after thought and much quandary we decided to lift the sucker on top of the dingy, and see if

the dingy would still float. Well It did. Patrick and I got back on board, secured the dingy and began our slow tow, back to Punta Mita. It was just then that Pat said, "maybe you'd better go below and make sure we not taking on water" ! Of course there was water in the bilge which we didn't know if it was from this or just plain negligence. Fortunately it is the later. But we rushed around anyway getting rid of it and then watching anxiously, to see if any more returned. (it didn't .. Hurray!!)

Sea Tern was in contact along the way and was gracious enough to follow us back and then dive on the boat the next day to see if there was external damage we didn't know about. There wasn't and on Saturday, Sea Tern and Perpetua had a lovely trip to Chamela, We sailed most of the way. Worm shoe now on Deck. Of coarse we don't quite know what well do with it and but we have it. (It could be an arts and craft thing ie a dug out canoe or an ama for our kayak or a new group "W" bench for guests, it comes complete with barnacles and fresh flacky bottom paint)

We consider ourselves very fortunate as this could have been oh so much worse. Those uncharted Rocks that jet up from no where a half a mile from shore..... I now have the waypoint in the GPS of "Perpetua's Rock"!

Once in Chamela we started to relax, but, oh oh .. a sun shower at dusk, on the deck, when it is blowing 15 knots, even in 75+ degrees you get goose bumps on goose bumps ! ... Chamela is a great place.. we stayed four days. We saw the beginning of the super bowl on a TV that was set up by the local RV park, but wanted to be back at the boat before dark (sounds like we didn't miss anything anyway). Getting out in the surf can be tricky and best done when you can see the incoming waves. Chamela is ok when you are careful, but we have known many boats to flip in the surf not a fun expereince. While we were there, we took Perpetua and the crews from Sea Tern and True Companion out to hike Isla Passavera and Isla Colorado. These islands lay in the middle of the bay only 2 miles from the anchorage. It is a game preserve, and many Boobies roost there. They are not used to people, so they stand there almost guarding the path, and let you walk right up to them. We even saw mothers feeding their small ones. Not real small but younger ones. They however were a bit protective and hollered at us.

From Chamela we went to Bahia Tenacatita. Stayed a week and are going back

there in two days, for another week or two. Being at anchor is very relaxing and pleasant. But during that first week there, we all got sick with the flu and we realized our water maker was really belly up. We followed the cleaning procedures, using a Rube Goldberg method of putting the barbecue in the pilot house (to keep the water at 120 degrees) and ran the cleaning procedure two times and this took about 10 hours total, over two days. That didn't work, so low and behold, the water maker rep was in Tenacatita at the same time we were. He suggested we changed out a "brine" seals in the membrane, and when that didn't work, we emailed all of our efforts and results to the manufacture and thanks to Susan having found out our cell phone worked from there (another amazing thing) so the rep and Pat call San Francisco. They said, "give" them a new membrane (a \$450 ITEM) FREE.. Can't ask for better service. In any event after three days of work on the bugger, it now works better than it ever did (knock on wood) actually, we think that maybe we had a bad membrane all along, and the new one (made by a different manufacturer) is good., So another success story from paradise, and another time of very fortunate timing. Our parents and some friends say the pray for us all the time.. it must be working, as when things have gone bad, we have seemed to be in the right place at the right time or friends are around to help us out.

We are now in Barra de Navidad, and are stocking up on fresh veggies and some meats. Doing the dinner out thing, -- where else but Mexico can you feed three people a great meal 2 ½ chicken dinners, and fish dinner with beans, salad, and rice and 6 cokes for under ten dollars, and that includes tip. Today, four other ladies and Susan made a trip to Melaque. The local touring market was in town. Eight blocks of vendors selling everything from Bras to hardware to jewelry to clothes and plastics. Melaque is small and has no major department store or grocery, but it has the local area bank. The touring markets go from small town to small town, a different day in each town. That's how the locals get their stuff, and the prices are better than at the Gringo stores. You can find everything you need at these. I for one, bought nail polish, barrettes for my long hair (much longer now, I can even get in in a pony tail) , skin cream (the special Mexican kind made from shells) and normal everyday other stuff, not the local tourist trappings at all.

Our plans are to work our way back up to Mazatlan for early March, we need some stainless work done to replace our Bow pulpit and maybe while it's being done we will hop on buses and trains and visit the copper canyon. We are told it

is not to be missed.

The sea life has been as wonderful as ever, we have even seen many Humpback whales breaching. Most times, they only make it half way out of the water, but on our way to Barra, we saw one that came completely out of the water. Quite spectacular, the splash was enormous and this was while the spotted dolphins are playing in the bow wake.

Well I guess that's all for now. Please write us once in a while as we need to hear from friends too. We miss you all and hope your lives are pleasant, calm and healthy.

Love to all .... From Perpetua's crew.

## **2. Log Entry: 05/1/01 - As we leave Mazatlan and Mexico**

Well, as we are told Cruisers Plans are always set in Jell-O, and now, ours have changed about 100 percent. When we last wrote we were in Barra De Navidad. A lovely spot and one of my personal favorites. A Mexican town, unspoiled by tourism. Small quaint, clean, colorful, and friendly. They have many restaurants, so, a favorite activity is testing the wares, at as many of them as we can. We stayed there for a week, and then went back to Tennicanita.

While in Tennicanita, we snorkeled, visited with other cruisers, went on the jungle river dingy rides, generally relaxed and enjoyed life. In addition, we examined our hull a bit more closely. And found we had bare wood showing on several places on the bottom of the keel. This meant that we needed to haul out the boat again and repair the keel. While she was still very sea worthy, extending the time the bare wood was exposed to the sea, would only damage her more. That rock in Banderas Bay has had ominous results. We decided to head for San Carlos up in the Sea of Cortez and haul the boat there. Since she's a trimaran, and she was hauled out there once, we thought we'd go for the security of the same place. Even though it was quite a ways away. Our plan was to get there by early April. That was in early March.

We began to work our way back north up the mainland coast. We stopped again in Chamela. This is a stopping off point to go around Cabo Corrientes. Cabo Corrientes, is point of land to the South of Banderas Bay (where Puerto Vallarta

is located). This point is known for its high winds and rough seas; waiting for the right weather is a requirement. So we waited. We ended up staying there about a week. During this week, we were treated to a storm like we haven't seen in Mexico before. Everyone says the weather was colder and weird this year. And we agree. We woke to thunder and lightning. When we listened to the high frequency weather forecasts, we knew we were in for it. The storm stretched from Mazatlan to Zihuatanejo. There were about 25 boats anchored along with us. We were in for it and there was no where to go!

The storm rolled in and stayed the entire day and the next one too. During the first day, there were steady winds of 26 knots and gusts up to about 32 knots and they shifted from SE through to NW before the day was over. No boats dragged, but a few moved to the shelter of a nearby island, only to have to re-anchor when the winds shifted. All in all, the most uncomfortable part was the swell. It was running from the SW, at about 4 feet and the anchorage had little shelter from this direction, putting us on a lee shore. We were anchored in 28 feet of water with 250 feet of chain out, so we were pretty comfortable that old Perpetua would hold still in these conditions, and she did. The following day, it started all over again. Only this time the swell was bigger about 6 feet, steeper and shorter between crests. The winds were steady at about 30 with gusts to 40 – 45. Again some skippers chose to move to the island, but since we knew our anchor was set well (after a day of 25 knots), we went nowhere. We did bounce all over the place, and watched the other boats bounce a lot more, Perpetua really shines at anchor. Some of the monohulls were swaying beam to the seas for a half an hour at a time. The winds were quite gusty and squirrely. We ended up beam to a few times ourselves, but mostly headed straight into it. It was quite the roller coaster ride for us, but for the others it was much worse. The storm lasted about 10 hours, with frequent squalls, with their wind shifts, coming through the anchorage and near the height of it all, we experienced a total whiteout of rain and gusty winds. It rained so hard that the white caps and seas laid down. We literally could not see beyond our boat. I was comfortable however in that I was not worried about our ground tackle. I knew we had a good hold on the bottom. A few boats did drag, but none were in danger and the skippers were able to reset their anchors easily albeit getting very wet.

We heard on the radio the following day that the Tennicanita anchorage was far worse off than we were. One boat was struck by lightning, Bye Bye electronics. In addition, three others dragged. Their wind supposedly hit 50+ knots.

So, when the weather finally broke, there were 18 boats coming up from Tennicanita, and 12 boats leaving Chamela, all going round Cabo Corrientes toward PV. There was a lot of camaraderie on the radios, and many folks were glad to be moving north again. We did a 26 hour run and got to La Cruz anchorage in Banderas Bay, about 5:30 AM. We spent a pleasant four days in La Cruz and then went north to Jaltimbra, stayed overnight and from there straight to Mazatlan. Both of these two last passages were uneventful including the lack of wild life. We are still here, at least until Tuesday.

Susan's Father was hospitalized and not doing well. She decided to go to PA and see him. This meant that it made sense to haul out and repair the boat in Mazatlan. This would be a more expensive haul out as Perpetua's crew would not be allowed to work on her. So, since Susan would be gone for two weeks, we decided to go ahead and fix the bottom. Unfortunately paying for this in cash, our second haul out in 8 months, wasn't possible, so we needed to come up with some money fast, isn't credit wonderful, with some draw backs! Well, the only way we know how to deal with that, with a down stock market, is to work. So after long hours of figuring, finagling (crying) and looking at what was happening in our lives, we have decided, that for the next two years at least we needed to work some. We will take six months off from our cursing to fatten up the cruising kitty or acquire more freedom chips. Then we will cruise for 6 months, then work some more and so on, until we are out of the hole and the pile of freedom chips are high enough so that we won't have to work for a while.

So for the last part of March and most of April, the boat had been in the yard and re-launched all fixed and a brand new bottom paint job too. Susan finished her trip north and came back to help "put the boat to bed" so to speak. We went up to San Carlos, where we left the RV, and drove it back to Mazatlan. We have been trying to locate work over the Internet. If anyone knows of anything PLEASE let us know.

We will leave Mazatlan around May 1<sup>st</sup>. We'll be heading to Dallas, Texas, where we have some family and we'll see what is available there in the way of work. If nothing there, then on up to Minnesota for a visit and job hunting. What with the RV to live in, we are flexible as to where we can work. Perhaps Portland, perhaps Denver, perhaps someplace in Pennsylvania? Time and the

job market will tell.

I think that should bring everyone up to date. We'll update everyone when we know more.

Until then, may your passages be easy, filled with sites of wonder, with a gentle breeze at your back and glorious sunsets.

Love to all .... From Perpetua's crew.

How to Contact Us:

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Note: Our email address requires the @ sign, not included here to minimize spamming.

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# The Adventure Continues in 2002

[Home](#)

[Photos](#)

[The Log](#)

[Links](#)

[Exit](#)

## 2002 Table of Contents

- [1. Log Entry: 5/1/02 – A Recap & The Start of 2002 Cruising Season](#)
- [2. Log Entry: 5/15/02 – Off to Bahia Conception](#)
- [3. Log Entry: 6/1/02 – Bahia Conception and Bad news](#)
- [4. Log Entry: 6/20/02 – Off to Solve The Battery Problem](#)
- [5. Log Entry: 6/25/02 – Return to Mazatlan](#)
- [6. Log Entry: 7/23/02 – Returning to the States](#)

[Return To The Log Index](#)

# Perpetua's Log

## 1. **Log Entry: 5/1/02 – A Recap & The Start of 2002 Cruising Season**

This cruising year started off after working in Portland for 6 months actually I should say Susan working and Pat looking unsuccessfully.

We left Mazatlan May 1st and traveled across the middle of Mexico in our motor home. We didn't do any tourist activities, as we wanted to get to Texas and search for work. We did spend a month in Texas visiting family and sending out many resumes without even a nibble. So we pushed on to Minnesota to visit family and attend a nephews wedding. All the while Susan had been reaching out to contacts. We no sooner reached the twin cities and Susan landed a contract for a 6 months project back in Portland. So off she went by plane, while Patrick and I stayed behind for the wedding. Once that was over we hightailed it to Portland.

While in Portland Patrick decided to stay behind when we left to go back cruising. He'd been away from the rest of his family for two years and it was time to reconnect and get on with his life.

Once Susan's contract was up we left Oregon in late December 2001 and traveled through California visiting family and friends. We past through Tucson and dropped off our car at a friends place as we didn't want to take it and the RV into Mexico.

We arrived back in Mazatlan in February 4th of 2002.

We had done our best to make things ready for her deep sleep onboard Perpetua, when we left in May of 2001, but with boats, Murphy's law is always in force. Our routine in waking her up is to reinstall all the equipment and running rigging. Then test all the systems to make sure they are functioning. Needless to say there was problems and then there was problems. We spent way to much time getting things repaired and up and running again. Our original plan was to go to Puerto Vallarta for a visit and some dentistry work and then head backup to the Sea of Cortez by the end April. This fell by the way side as we couldn't very well leave with major systems not functioning. So the dentist work happened in Mazatlan along with the other boat work.

By the end of April all boat systems and both mouths we were indeed ready to

head across the sea for some fun. We decided to make a side trip and stop at a place that we'd heard about from a fellow cruiser, but which wasn't in any cruising guide. Altata is a port 110 miles NW of Mazatlan on the main side of the sea. The winds were light, Perpetua and two other boats (Albion & Kelmar) made it to an offshore buoy, for which we had a GPS waypoint, in 24 hours. We had a hand drawn map/chart of our way into the towns' anchorage. We entered the lagoon with great trepidation as the depths with unknown or vaguely marked on hand drawn chartlet. As we gingerly entered, the local fishermen came by to say hello and we asked for directions to town. They all said to go straight down the lagoon. Thus we moved on in slowly. Our lead boat Albion with Brent and Molly onboard did touch the bottom a couple of times but since it was mud or sand bottom they were able to back off easily. Perpetua was next and stayed far enough behind to alter course to avoid the shallow areas found by Albion. We also took GPS waypoints as we went, to be used for a safe return route.

Once anchored in front of the towns' beach palapa restaurants we went ashore. We had been told about a certain restaurant (La Perla) that seemed to be helpful to the fellow cruisers who had been there previously. Once we introduced ourselves and made the owner understand we were friends of Spindrift, the other boat, it was like we were old buddies returning from the sea. From then on we were treated like leading citizens. We were driven to the port captain's office. The newspaper from Culiacan was contacted and reporters showed up for interviews and strangest of all there were boats in the harbor circling our boats taking pictures. It seems that having three and then a fourth foreign boat (Lady MJ) all show up at the same time had never happened before in Altata. We all had only planned on staying a day but we all decided to stay or three days. We were able to get fresh veggies and diesel fuel before leaving. Gustav the restaurant owner drove us, with our fuel jugs, to a local gas station and then on to a farm equipment fuel station to get diesel. The gas station's diesel pumps didn't work; that's typical Mexico. We had many enjoyable meals at La Perla's. Gustav even let us start a cruiser's wall sign in area. Finally the weather was right and we left Altata vowing to return someday.

We made a 32 hour crossing of the sea to Isla San Francisco. We'd been here before and it was nice to return to this crescent shaped, crystal clear shallow bay. We had decide not to go to La Paz as it was so late in the season and we wanted to get to Puerto Escondido for the festival there which started on the

first weekend in May. We rested up from the passage and did some hiking around Isla San Francisco and left after 48 hours. We said our good byes to Albion here, as they were on a tight schedule to get to San Carlos for a haul out. Next we made it as far as Aqua Verde. During our anchoring stops we were having to run our engine more often, then we remembered from previous years, just to charge the house batteries. At the time it just seemed odd.

At Aqua Verde we stayed for 5 days as a North wind had come up and that was the direction we needed to go. So we had to change anchorage's from the south exposed one to the north more protected one. We made a trip ashore into the small town. This not much more then the residents for the fishing fleet, however there is a small store, one small restaurant and the goat cheese "factory". We visited each establishment, and made appropriate purchases. It took some searching to find the "factory" as it was a lean-to up against a large rock with several goats running around near by, they did in fact make and sell fresh goat cheese. It was worth the search! Alas it was time to move on up to Honeymoon Cove on Isla Danzante. This is about a 25 mile trip, easily done in the daylight.

We spent 2 days at Honeymoon cove. It was spent saying good bye to Kelmar, as they had to push on to San Carlos. We made a quick 3.5 mile dingy ride over to Puerto Escondido to make the sign up for the upcoming activities. Once our friends left we made the quick passage over to Escondido and found ourselves a place to anchor. Since Altata, we had also been traveling with Lady MJ up until this point, they would be returning to La Paz after the festival, such is the cruising life. We did meet up with Seadater, Tica and Perceptions whom we would complete this seasons adventures.

Love to All... From Perpetua's Crew

## **2. Log Entry: 5/15/02 – Off to Bahia Conception**

We stayed in Puerto Escondido for two weeks. Besides the festival, which is a joy to attend and participate in, we were introduced to some local cruisers, who've stayed on year round and we were meeting friends, Ray & Anne from the Northwest.

The local cruisers took us under their wings and showed us the claming areas,

activities in Lorreto and benefit parties for local folks in need. We had great fun!

Our friends Ray and Anne, from the northwest indeed showed up. They brought a box full of our mail the first since leaving Portland in December. Needless to say that was a fun time. They stayed through the festival and then returned home by car.

The festival lasts 3 days and is put on by the Hidden Port Yacht Club. They do a great job of setting up and scheduling activities. There's a slow pitch ball game series lasting the 3 days, also a horse shoe tournament and many and various board game tournaments. There are seminars on fishing techniques, SSB email setup, HAM classes and tests. Did I mention music every night provided by cruisers. Oh yeah, the club feeds the entire group 2 meals. There is pop, beer and munches provided for a small fee during the day and evenings. There's a bay cleanup on Saturday, on Sunday as things are winding down there's a kayak and dingy parade with judging of the costumes worn by the participants! There is much more going on that I can't remember. You get the idea though, it's hard not to have a good time at this festival!

Alas the festival was over and we like others had to start moving north. Some of our fellow cruisers are headed off in other directions. We joined a group of boats we knew that were heading up to Bahia Conception before crossing over to San Carlos. Our first was Bahia Marquer, about a 13 mile trip. We spent 2 nights there and the next day went ashore for a walk and took a dingy ride around the bay. Great fun! Our second stop was Isla Coronados, about 15 miles away. This is an Island we had not stopped at before. As we were anchoring we'd gotten a whiff of a bad smell but it didn't stay long and we dismissed it. In the evening around 9:00 PM we startled to hear a noise that sounded like nothing we'd ever heard before. Maybe a motor running loudly or a giant cat fight, it lasted most of the night. In the morning Horst from Seadater stopped by in his dingy and asked if I wanted to go see the dead squid on the beach, on the other side of the bay. So that was the noise and smell, the squid had beached themselves as part of some mating ritual. We surveyed the grotesque scene of squid a foot deep on the beach, took pictures and scooped up a couple of nearly dead squid. It was all we could do to stay there as long as we did, the smell !!!

Horst showed us how to clean and cook the squid. So, for the next several days we had squid meals and munchies. Quite nice actually and tasty too! After

a 2 day stay it was time to move on, as the smell from the previous and subsequent beaching's made the place unpleasant to stay any longer. Our next stop was to be San Juanico Cove, about 40 miles away. The batteries still needed charging at least twice a day or more often, now we were becoming concerned.

San Juanico Cove was the furthest we'd reached in 2000 before crossing to San Carlos thus ending that season. This year we had more time to burn so we'd be going further up into the sea. The time we spent at San Juanico was mixed as the wind seemed to blow all day and night only letting up for short periods. We did manage to replace our token of passing, at the cruiser's shrine and take a dingy tour around the entire bay. The token we had left in 2000 had all but disappeared. So we had to make up another one and find a more secure place to leave it. (Leaving a token is a ritual that the cruisers do if they have gotten this far up into the Sea of Cortez on the Baja. The site is around the base of the only tree in sight, in the entire bay!)

Our next stop was 55 miles away up in Bahia Conception. We left at first light and arrived just at dusk and anchored at Bahia Santo Domingo. This anchorage is just inside the mouth of Bahia Conception on the eastern side. As mentioned we arrived at dusk, we were sitting around having our sundowners, when all of a sudden we were attacked from the west, across the bay, by mud wasps. We had been targeted as a rest stop along the path of the returning flight wing. As near as we can figure they had crossed over during the day and were returning home. We happened to be in their flight path. Being a 40' tri they must of thought they'd reached home. They came flying in and crash landed anywhere they could, on the boat or on you, in your drinks. We had great fun "shoeing" them away until finally we gave up and went below.

It had been a long day but worth the push, because unknown to us, we now would end up spending our last three weeks here, before returning south on an emergency push to La Paz, but more on that later.

Love to All... From Perpetua's Crew

### **3. Log Entry: 6/1/02 – Bahia Conception and Bad news**

This bay is spectacular, its about 12 miles long and 3 miles wide. It has small

sub-bays long the western side. We visited 2 of the anchorage's on Perpetua and a couple of others and a couple of the small islands by dingy.

We found all the restaurants and frequented them as much as possible. One was a renowned gourmet thatched hut, with no electricity place that served the BEST coconut stuffed scampi shrimp we have ever tasted. This restaurant was in Bahia Santispac. A place where gringos rent beach spots year round and only habitat seasonally. Each place must supply their own electric power. Water is trucked in from near by Mulege to fill their cisterns. We spent a couple of days here, and made a trip into town. This was accomplished by beaching your dingy hiking up to the road and hitch hiking a ride. There is no bus service to town. The town of Mulege is 12 miles away. Our first ride was in the back of a pickup truck standing up holding onto braces while whizzing along at 55 miles an hour around and up a winding road to town. We rode in a taxi back \$42 US. We shared the taxi ride cost with the other cruisers we'd accompanied to town. The town has most of your basic supplies, Internet cafes, a bank and of course restaurants. No marine supplies and no boating type services, only automotive type supplies and services. It's a very nice small Mexican town. It has a lovely river flowing through the heart, with palm trees and shrubs growing along side. There are RV parks for the gringo snowbirds, parks and squares for resting in the heat. While we were there a campaign was going on for mayor, so there was a lot of noise on certain blocks of town.

We moved our anchorage down to Bahia Santa Barbara. This is a very lovely small bay. There is nothing there except several palm trees in the middle of the beach on shore. We spent a lot of time here under the shade of the trees playing cards (Baja Rummy) and collecting clams from the bottom of the bay as well as snorkeling the area around the bay. It was during this restful period that I decided to determine why the house batteries seemed to need constant recharging.

I had worked out a test plan for the system and reviewed it with a Toby onboard Dreamweaver who has an electrical background. (Did I mention the heat during the day temperatures was in the 90's.) Once I started it took 2 days of unhooking, rehooking up and testing each of the house batteries individually, some of which are located in the engine room. Since the voltage meter indicated they had a full voltage I had to determine if they could start the engine or at least turn it over, then they would be ok and I could look for other

problem sources. I had 5 AGM group 31, house batteries, 4 failed to even turn over the starter, one at least turned over the starter but couldn't start the engine. The consensus among the cruisers was that the batteries were DOA. After many more trips to town, (remember the hitch hiking each time), accompanied by phone calls to manufactures, more battery testing as well as contacting possible sources for the replacements and a host of emails, it was confirmed that the batteries were in fact DOA. We'd also, gone back and forth between Santispac and Santa Barbara a couple of times. The possible problem fix alternative was not bright, no shipping to this area, no local deep cycle batteries in the area, (remember only automotive supplies locally) no one willing to drive replacement batteries down from the states. The daunting conclusion evolved over several days. We needed at least 2 new deep cycle batteries to get us back to Mazatlan where we intended to leave the boat. The only place that had them in Mexico, and that was near by, was in La Paz, about 400 miles south! So as good cruiser's do we forgot about the problem and had a good time hanging out in the different bays, enjoying the company of our buddies and generally enjoying ourselves. Everyone we were with was heading in different directions, some sooner than others, and none were going south to La Paz. We'd be on our own once we left our comrades and Bahia Conception.

We spent the time snorkeling on near by islands, checking out the various little bays and the dwellings there in, which are mostly gringo winter homes. Having pot luck meals with the cruises and eating in the local restaurants and of course more time under the palm trees visiting and play cards. However, by the middle of June it was time for the last holdouts to push onto where ever they were going, us included.

Love to All... From Perpetua's Crew

#### **4. Log Entry: 6/20/02 – Off to Solve The Battery Problem**

During our seemingly lapse in sanity we did manage to formulate a plan and arrange for some helping hands. Thanks to those technical wizards, who ever they are, for the onboard email systems! The plan was simply to hightail it to Puerto Escondido where we would be able to "borrow" a car and then drive to La Paz, 250 miles away, go to Lopez Marine and pickup the 2 deep cycle batteries, we'd reserved through emails, and return to Puerto Escondido. It wasn't much of a plan but it worked out beautifully.

Perpetua has a good engine starting battery so as long as we were moving or could start the engine our weak house batteries still having some limited life would keep us in good stead. When our turn came we said our good byes from the Santo Domingo anchorage and made a nonstop run to Isla Coronados. Thank goodness the squid smells were gone, because we needed a good night sleep. We spent the night and left the next morning for Puerto Escondido. On the way to Puerto Escondido we made radio contact with some friends onboard Margaritaville. We knew they were planning on heading back to Mazatlan at the end of the season. So we setup a rendezvou for the following week as they were still enjoying their current location on Isla Carmen. We arrived on a Friday mid-day and we made our car contact and setup the trip for following morning. Our plan was to drive straight to La Paz get the batteries, some minor supplies, some lunch and return to Puerto Escondido in the same day. This did happen as planned without a hitch. We left at first light, saw a lot of desert and cactus several towns and a lot of heat as the car didn't have air conditioning. On the return trip we were so hot, because by now it was early afternoon, that we stopped in Ciudad Constitucion, a good sized city and had some ice cream at a store along side the road. It was a nice break and we got to see some of the locals going about their daily routines. We made it back to Puerto Escondido without any problems by 4:00 PM. The trip was 2 four-hour drives, an hour in La Paz and 30 minute ice cream stop. What a day!

On that Saturday evening I installed the new batteries and ran the engine to charge them up good! What a relief! On Sunday we used the car again to replenish all of fuel needs (gas and diesel). On Monday we left for an anchorage on Isla Carmen named Bahia Marquer, which was only 13 miles away.

Love to All... From Perpetua's Crew

## 5. **Log Entry: 6/25/02 – Return to Mazatlan**

We spent the day at Bahia Marquer as Rex and Jeanie on Margaritaville, showed up. The next day we left for Isla Monsarrat. We had not been to this island before, we stayed at the north anchorage, call “yellow beach”, for 3 days. Its called “yellow Beach” because the color of the sandstone on shore is yellow.

We were introduced to Rex's passion. He is the consummate "Hunter and Gatherer". He loves to rod fish and spear hunt lobster and fish, as well as dig up clams. He showed us where to look for the lobster and how to shoot them with a Hawaiian sling spear. Needless to say we ate fresh fish and lobster for 2 days.

When it was time to leave we headed south down to Aqua Verde. This was a pleasant motor sail of about 20 miles. We only spent one night here as it was getting late in the season and we both needed to get south and cross over to Mazatlan. In our case we need to put Perpetua to sleep and get out of Mexico by the end of July, because that's when our visa's were up. The folks on Margaritaville just wanted to get settled in for the summer as they stay in Mexico year round. But first Margaritaville needed to make a pit stop in La Paz.

During the summer season the prevailing winds are out of the south, the direction we were headed! After leaving Aqua Verde we'd hoped to get to Isla San Jose for some more fishing. Mother nature decided for us that we'd stop at an anchorage at Punta El Cobre. We spent one night here as well and left early in the AM. However as the day progressed so did the southerly winds. Rex decided to head more easterly around the northern tip of San Jose in search of calmer winds. This proved to be the case and we soon followed. We thus avoided the wind (and waves) funnel called San Jose channel. We'd never gone down the outside of this island and it was a calmer and very spectacular motor sail cruise. We anchored out of the wind, on the north side of Isla San Francisco, again a new place for us. We spent 2 days there resting and exploring this area, while Margaritaville moved over to La Amortajada spit anchorage area on Isla San Jose. He was going to go fishing in the inland Lagoon located on the SE corner of the island. We joined them there and explored the lagoon by dingy took pictures and ate some fish provided by Rex.

The next day we attempted to head south down past Isla San Francisco but the wind was too strong and the seas too high for us and so we stopped for several hours in the crescent shaped bay on Isla San Francisco to wait out the wind. Margaritaville had continued on attempting to sail to windward and buck the seas. We left later in the afternoon after the winds had died down and meet up with Margaritaville in El Cardonal bay on Isla Partida. This is a very nice enclosed anchorage however it is open to the west and can be windy at times. We enjoyed a calm peaceful night and then headed off south towards La Paz in

the morning. Margaritaville was planning on going into La Paz and we decided not to make entry. Each time you enter a Port in Mexico you are supposed to check in and then out and pays fees each way (in/out). We didn't need any supplies and stopped off at Estero Balandra for the 3 days Margaritaville would be La Paz. We enjoyed this little bay for its shallow lagoons and inland bays. This is the home of La Paz's Mushroom rock. This is a natural formation of a good sized rock, supported only by an 8" base. This rock and the area around the bay are great to photograph and snorkel. The road from La Paz comes here to a picnic area, so it's common to see lots of Mexicans enjoying themselves in the warm water. Mexican pleasure boats also frequent the area too. The only problem here was the sleepless nights. This is Coromuel wind territory and every evening around 8 PM 30+ MPH winds roared off the hill sides and stretched out our anchor rode to its MAX. This of course made us very nervous and so we took turns standing anchor watches all night to make sure we weren't dragging anchor. Fortunately we never did, but you never know! When Margaritaville returned from La Paz ready to cross over to Mazatlan we thought we'd be rested and ready to go, Ha!

We waited until really early the next morning before leaving and made it through the San Lorenzo channel without incident. This is a narrow channel between the baja main land and Isla Espirtu Santo. It can be rough if the wind is up. Next we rounded Punta Coyote and headed south through the Cerralvo channel, toward the southern end of Isla Cerralvo. This channel is another notorious weather place. Our plan, was to see what the wind and sea conditions were and the weather outlook was like at the southern end of Cerralvo Island/channel. Then, decide if we were going to continue on across the sea to Mazatlan or duck around Punta Arena into Los Muertos anchorage and wait for favorable weather.

The winds were light out of the south and the seas relatively calm so off we went across the sea. The trip was a good one with some actual off wind sailing (without the motor on!). The hardest thing was keeping the Cormorants from landing on top of the mast. Quite the challenge! We made it to Mazatlan without any problems, our new batteries working fine and we now had to prepare Perpetua for her long sleep.

We arrived in Mazatlan with about 3 an a half weeks left before our visa's ran out. Since we'd left the RV in the marina parking lot we started moving stuff

off the boat into it immediately. It took about 3 weeks to get everything in order and stored below decks so that Perpetua could sleep well and we didn't have to worry about her. Little did we know just how long she would remain asleep!

Love to All... From Perpetua's Crew

## 6. **Log Entry: 7/23/02 – Returning to the States**

We left Mazatlan and reached Tucson, Arizona 4 days later. The 1st day took us to San Carlos, where we parked in the marina parking lot. The next day we crossed the boarder and stopped in Patagonia for a night at a RV park. The next day we stopped by our friends place near Whetstone and picked up our car and then, went onto Tucson. There we spent a couple of days at a RV park and arranged for some service work to be done on the RV. It couldn't all be completed in Tucson so we moved on up to Phoenix to complete the service work (replacement a windshield) and to decide our next move.

As a practice when we are leaving Mexico to look for work we let our consulting firm know we're available for work. Susan also sends out her feelers, to her contacts, letting them know the same. We were not in Phoenix a day when Susan was hired and had to report to work the following Monday. It was a scramble to get her on the Friday plane and find her a place in Portland to stay until I could join her in the RV. This left me with the task of driving from Phoenix to Portland alone, so I decided to take it easy and drive only 250 – 300 miles a day. I traveled through northern Arizona, Utah, Idaho and Oregon. I saw some great country I want to explore down the road sometime. The trip took 6 days to get to Portland and that is where we have been since August 4th 2002.

Love to All... From Perpetua's Crew

How to Contact Us:

**Perpetua's Crew**

# The Adventure Continues in 2004

[Home](#)

[Photos](#)

[The Log](#)

[Links](#)

[Exit](#)

## 2004 Table of Contents

- [1. Log Entry: 1/30/04 – States side](#)
- [2. Log Entry: 9/20/04 - Let the Journey Resume](#)
- [3. Log Entry: 9/26/04 - Idaho Visit](#)
- [4. Log Entry: 10/3/04 - Utah Sojourn](#)
- [5. Log Entry: 10/9/04 - Arizona Visit](#)
- [6. Log Entry: 10/29/04 - Mexico Bound](#)
- [7. Log Entry: 11/1/04 - The Long Awaited Arrival Turns Into Work](#)

[Return To The Log Index](#)

## 2004 Log Entries

- 1. Log Entry: 1/30/04 – States side**

It turned out that Susan's contract job was on a multi-year, multi-million dollar project. She's still working on it as of this log entry. Pat has had a contract job but not a full time like Susan. Pat has been learning about web page design and has put this web page of our adventure together.

We will be BACK to Mexico soon! Our current plan is to be back in Mazatlan in the fall of 2004. We can't wait for the adventure to continue.

## 2. **Log Entry: 9/20/04 - Let the Journey Resume**

The autumn chill was in the air, the rains had started, the time was ripe for departing the NW. After working for 2+ years, Perpetua's Crew is more than ready to leave.

The Admiral and the Cap'n resumed their adventure unceremoniously by retracting the umbilical cords on the "Dirt Boat" and taking to the road, off to Seattle. But that's North you say! The boat is South! After two years of living away from our beloved waterworld we'd accumulated lots of "stuff", which we had to sort through, discard or store in our storage locker. Plus we'd stored other "stuff" in storage that had to go to the boat.

We had said good bye to family members in Portland and also had to do the same with family in Seattle.

I don't want to imply that we are hoarders but we did shred 5 boxes of tax return documents dating as far back as 1972. Eight large bags of clothes were donated to charity. Other miscellaneous items donated to charity and oh yes lots of trash thrown out. So then, why is our storage locker still overflowing, well that leaves something to work on next time.

As most projects go we had initially thought we could get this done in 3 - 4 days. So we reserved 5 days at the RV Park. Now we've decided that a 6th and maybe a 7th day are needed. Unfortunately the spot we are in is booked after the 5th day so we'll have to move spots, not a big deal but some extra work and more cost. So what's new!

Our loose plans call for a leisurely trip south to Mazatlan, Mexico. We hope to reach there by November 1st. We'll visit friends along the way and see some sites as well. This will be the longest "shake down" cruise for the new "dirt boat". We're looking forward to the upcoming adventures.

### 3. **Log Entry: 9/26/04 - Idaho Visit**

Once we finished our Seattle visit it took us 2 days to reach Emida, Idaho. The trip to Idaho was for a visit with some cruising friends who have "swallowed the anchor" (stopped cruising). It was a very nice four day visit. The visit is bracketed by an off road experience to reach their hill top, log home. Their road leading up to their home is a dirt road, up a steep hill. The one lane road is partially washed out in spots with ruts and there are over hanging tree limbs trying to grab the "Dirt Boat". I sent the "toad" (tow car) on ahead, with a hand held radio to help guide the mother ship up the mile long road. We had no problems either way. Although going down it's a 1st gear both feet on the brake adventure.

While there we did some sight seeing and went to a defunct ski lodge, which is being used for various types of retreats. One of the frequent retreat customers is a group of people attending a "quilting be". Needless to say there were more than a dozen beautifully crafted finished quits for sale. The place also contained an eclectic collection of newly crafted items and used boarder line antiques. Besides the "stuff" browsing, the 15-mile views from the grounds outside were wonderful.

When our visit was over we headed south on highway 95. This road goes through some awesome country, which provided us some great views as we rolled along. Two days later we entered Utah.

### 4. **Log Entry: 10/3/04 - Utah Sojourn**

We had a picked a couple of places to visit in Utah as we headed south. So we mostly we headed towards those destinations. As we passed through Utah we stopped in Provo, Red Canyon and Hurricane. We visited Bryce Canyon National Park, and Zion Canyon National Park. These two canyons are spectacular for each of their own special characteristics.

Bryce Canyon Park is high in the mountains (9000+ feet), the driving tour, takes you along a mountain ridge. Each viewpoint along the way is looking down into the "HooDoos" as they are called.



These towers or pillars and odd formations of sandstone are numerous and go as far as the eye can see. Each "Hoodoo" is made up of a variety of colors imbedded in the layers of sediment. Plus the vistas out into the valleys beyond from these viewpoints was breath taking. The day we were there, clouds were passing by and some were dropping showers in the far valleys. You'd see areas where no showers were occurring and then down pours over other areas all the time we were high and dry. Needless to say the shadows over the landscape dramatized the views. The sandstone colors were varied and beautiful especially with the shadow's being cast on them.

[View the entire album](#)

Zion Canyon Park is one in which you are in the valley, and both driving yourself through part of it and riding in a park trolley for the main and best parts. The valley walls seemed to rise straight up thousands of feet.



The trolley driver would periodically announce that if you looked up on the side of a certain precipice you'd see mountain climbers scaling the cliffs. You could hardly see them with the naked eye! (Not my kind of fun!) There is a stream running down the middle of the park, which adds a water element to the views. Unfortunately the waterfalls we visited were not flowing much, but more like dripping, but still neat hiking. There is a lodge in the middle of the best part of the park, which gave us a nice place to rest before continuing our exploration. The trolley runs continuously and you get on and off at the various stops, exploring or hiking the area, then get back on the trolley for the next stop. We saw wild deer and turkeys as we went along. Again the shadows over these spectacular landscapes were awesome, as the day wound to a close.

[View the entire album](#)

## 5. Log Entry: 10/9/04 - Arizona Visit

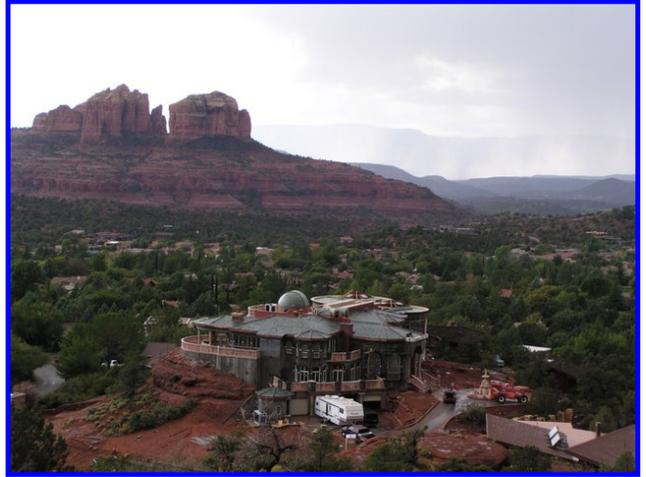
We stopped at Lake Powell campground overnight and the next day toured Glen Canyon Dam. The scenery around the lake is second to none.



From our location we had great vistas of the surrounding mountains and rock formations. As the sunset the shadows that were being cast across each mount keep changing their appearances and colors. The lake itself has been experiencing a drought since 1998. The lake is down 160 feet, if it goes down another 80+ feet it will effect the power generation of the dam. The dam is the second highest in the US. Very impressive to see and the free tour while limited (homeland security issues) was spectacular. To be down standing on the top of the dam looking over the top of the wall at the 700+ feet to the bottom was something to be experienced and took your breath away. Luckily the tour guide kept us moving so we didn't lose ourselves in the view!

[View the entire album](#)

We passed through Flagstaff as we headed for our next destination Cottonwood, Arizona. We stopped in Cottonwood and visited the Sedona area. The road into town from Flagstaff was quite the down hill switch back drive from 7000+ feet to 3300+ feet into a gorgeous gorge/canyon with some awesome views.



The town it self is mostly a tourist trap. If you want to take a tour out into the backcountry, by jeep, it would be most spectacular. It was too costly for our pocket book. We visited some of the shops and found a wonderful church perched high on a hillside. (Chapel of the Holy Cross) Generally the views were really spectacular, however it was showering that day so that put a damper on our visit. We tried to find one of the "vortex" spots but couldn't get the correct "vibrations" at the spot we had been searching. Besides it was on National Forest land and they wanted you to purchase a day pass to get to the location of the vortex, so we passed. We also visited Montezuma's Castle National Park. This is an 1100AD cliff dwelling site. We couldn't go inside it but it was still impressive to see from the grounds. We could easily imagine folks living around this area as it had a stream running near by and areas large enough to grow crops.

[View the entire Sedona album](#)

[View the entire Montezuma's Castle album](#)

We shoved off for Tucson after a couple of days. We were there for 5 days, while we finished up our "Mexico buying" list. While in Tucson we visited the Pima Air Museum and Saguaro National Park. Each place had hundreds of things to see.



The air museum had vintage airplanes and jets while the national park had lots old cactus. Did you know that it takes 75 years of growth before the arms on a Saguaro Cactus start to grow! Whew!

[View the entire album](#)

We visited (ex) cruising friends (all with anchors in their throats) in Sunsites for a week and Huachuca City for four days.

Our friends in Sunsites had all just recently built new homes, so we visited each and visited with the folks. Of course part of the visit was to hear their building tails. While



in



Sunsites, our friends from Dreamweaver took us to visit Pearce, a ghost town, Cochise's Stronghold Park/campground, the Amerind Museum, the Chiricahua Canyon National Park, Dragoon (almost a ghost town), and the 1862 Dragoon Springs Stage Stop. Each place was worth a story in itself. We also visited Bisbee in southern Arizona near the boarder. Bisbee is now an historic, artsy, touristy ex-copper mining town. While there, we walked through the narrow streets and visited some shops, had lunch and we took the Queen Mine Tour. This tour took us 1500 feet into the side of a



mountain and we saw how the mining was done up until the 1950's. The tour lasted an hour and a half. We also visited the Mining Museum in town and the Lavender (open) Pit Copper Mine. On the way to Bisbee we stopped at the Rattlesnake Crafts & Antique desert oasis. This place was literally in the middle of no where, desert country. Two miles off the main dirt rode on a side dirt rode. This was 15 miles outside of Tombstone, Arizona. It was primarily a collection of junk arranged for our review that had been collected from all over the area, plus snake skin art deco objects for sale. No sale here!

[View the entire Pearce album](#)

[View the entire Chiricahua Canyon album](#)

[View the entire Dragoon album](#)

[View the entire Bisbee album](#)

While in Huachuca City we visited the town of Sierra Vista, Coronado National Memorial and Barker Canyon Lake. The view from Montezuma pass viewpoint at 6575 feet was breath taking. I couldn't take enough pictures, which of course don't



give  
the  
true



feeling. Parker Canyon Lake as the name suggests is a reservoir in a canyon with great vistas surrounding it. There were quite a few birds about and the fishing seemed to going strong. There is a nice camp ground there but no hook ups. We didn't stop, just looked around. Susan had a cosmic experience, at our friend's house, she'll remember

for the rest of her life. She was able to watch the lunar eclipse from the warmth of a hot tub, while sipping wine. Life can't get much better! Pat saw it from a rocking chair, he's not to hot on hot tubs.

[View the entire album](#)

We left our friends in Huachuca City paused long enough to washed the back road dirt off the RV. We left our "toad" (car) at our friend's place for safe keeping and headed to Nogales Arizona and the local Wal-Mart parking lot (a cheap campground). However we did manage to shop for those "Last Minute" items!

## 6. **Log Entry: 10/29/04 - Mexico Bound**

We haven't used many Wal-Mart's as campgrounds so far in our travels. But we decided that we needed to be close to the boarder and by using the Nogales Wal-Mart as a jumping off point this worked out very good. A short trip from Huachuca City to Nogales put us in a position for an early boarder crossing. We positioned the RV so that when we ran our generator it would not bother anyone else. As it turned out we were the only ones staying the night. While Susan went and did some last minute shopping to pay for our camping spot (Spent \$92) I decided to make sure all our Mexican liability insurance papers were in order for both the boat and the RV. I found two problems, first, a year's worth the RV insurance started and ended on the same day, which had already past. Second, the Boat insurance, I'd never received an updated policy showing coverage for 2004/2005. Now remember I'm in a parking lot, in a strange town, with no car, only a cell phone and it was 4:30PM on a Friday. I started making calls to local RV insurance agent who transferred me to the Tucson office where I'd made the initial arrangements. They were willing to create a "Rider" and fax it to the Nogales office and the person there was willing to drive to the Wal-Mart parking lot after work and drop off the faxed rider. This happened without a hitch. The boat insurance call went to San Diego, who said they would email me a copy and mail a new policy to our Lynnwood Washington address. We never got the email but we did eventually got an image of the policy emailed to us, by a family member.

It took us two days of travel to reach Mazatlan. After we crossed the boarder and did our paper work shuffle at the 21 kilometer check point. we drove for as long as we could. We were trying to reach Mazatlan in 3 days or less because we had a RV spot reserved if we could get there by the first of November. By the time we reached the City of Obregon, it was raining hard and traffic was getting spooky so we pulled into a truck stop. We thought we'd be able to spend the night there, but we were asked to

leave and when we played "no compendi" and didn't leave, they started stacking BIG rig semis all round us, like less then a foot between us and them. They of course left their engines running while they rested, so we didn't get much rest. At 1:00AM the rain had stopped and there was an opening for us to leave the truck stop, so that's what we did. Susan drove another 5 or 6 miles through town looking for someplace to stop and happened on a closed Wal-Mart, of all things, so we stopped and found a spot in their parking lot. Of course this was a new spot and off the main road a bit and it was dark. We were nervous for a bit, so I stood lookout, until sleep deprivation took over and I hit the rack.

We got up early and left Wal-Mart by 6:00am to make the remaining long haul to Mazatlan. It was a long day and it rained throughout the trip. We hadn't been to this RV park before but we had traveled back and forth along the main drag while in Mazatlan. We just took our time and found the signs and the turn off. We arrived at 4:00PM. When we arrived, the night watchman didn't seem to have our reservations, but when he called the manager we'd talked to and she showed up 10 minutes later, all was fixed. Once we got parked and tried to hookup our power it kept blowing fuses. So, the night watchman switched into the maintenance man and rewired our plug and got it working. We had made it to Mazatlan and had an RV spot for as long as we would need it. So what kind of welcome did get ... a tropical downpour, it rained harder then on the entire trip down, it rained hard for a couple of hours! In the morning we discovered that we'd tilted the RV the wrong way, when we had used the leveling jacks the night before. This created an area for the rainwater to collect and this caused a leak pouring into our kitchen area through the ceiling! Welcome to Mazatlan, now clean up the mess!

## **7. Log Entry: 11/1/04 - The Long Awaited Arrival Turns Into Work**

The first sight of Perpetua was filled with longing, trepidation and a lot of apprehensions. Some of it turned out to be valid "mountains" and others "mole hills". The decks were very dirty and several noticeable creaks were plainly visible. As we walked around on the main cabin deck we discovered several "soft" spots as in don't put your full weight on them, as you would go right through the deck. This was not a



good start to the investigation. As we opened the cabin door there was an overwhelming smell of "MOLD". We could see that there was



water damage on the carpet walls from where water had come in from too many sources and had made its way down the walls to the window ledges, to the bilge's. Even opening all the hatches and windows did not reduce the smell! Mold seemed to have grown on places where no moisture would or could have gotten, yet it was there, white fuzz! Of course there was water in every bilge, we discovered that the two out door wet locked had silted up from dirt being washed into them and had collected water which had in turn overflowed into the adjoining compartments and then they even overflowed into the bilge's. Water seemed to have "ingress" from everywhere and it all wound up in the bilge's.

Mopping up the water did take several days, we used sponges, buckets and our shopvac. Washing down all the mildewed surfaces, like counters, floorboards, carpets, cabinets, overheads, interior walls and even the bilge areas is still going on in February, as we move into a section for its restoration.

One of the first things we had to do was to get the old batteries out of the boat and the new ones installed so we could have power for lights, radio and inverter power for the shopvac, etc. The old batteries (8) weighted 550 pounds. I was quite a job to lift all that weight off the boat and haul it up the dock to the trash. We had brought down 3 new batteries (225 Lbs.) and had a friend deliver them from the RV Park to the boat. These were lugged down and hoisted onto the boat and jostled into their new homes and then hooked up.

So why aren't the solar panels charging the batteries? This investigation included doubting the instruments, by passing them, some hair pulling and some navy words, rewiring the through deck plugs to finally removing and checking out the wiring on the panels themselves. Guess what wiring had corroded to a powder in some cases and just lousy connections on others. So, I rewired the entire panel suite (4 panels) and presto, power to the people. During this effort we realized that we were extremely

warm during our work efforts so, where did we store the bimini covering? Once it was located and the cables to support it, up it went and we had instant sun relief.

We began the process of restoring the damage to the deck by talking to one of the local boat repair guys that we had some experience with the last time we were in Mazatlan. He told us what needed to be done by us before he could begin his effort. There were at least 4 soft spots we had identified and most likely, more would be discovered as we went along.



The process would involve removing all of the ceiling panels and all the fiber glass insulation that had been there before we bought the boat (1975). This is on the inside of the main cabin and in the sleeping areas.

Next all the deck hardware used for sailing had to be removed.



This included the sail tracks (5), wenches (2), turning blocks (4) and padeyes (3). Ultimately the clubfoot sail track had to come off too! Fortunately friends (Tom & Kathy) from Portland had arrived in their boat (Awahnee) and Tom helped me with

the hardware removal effort. Once the deck was cleared we scheduled Rick to start his efforts. He started on December 1st.

During this time we had decided, early on, that we would have weekends off or at least Sundays. So we made trips to downtown for shopping and sight seeing with Tom & Kathy, Tom & Sue past boaters and other friends. For awhile we made trips to "Bruja" beach on Sundays. This was a great relief from our boat work and we had fun visiting, walking the beach, flying kites, playing frezbee, swimming and buggy boarding in the surf.



We had so much fun, we bought a buggy board for ourselves. We'd go out to dinner every with friends once in a while but mostly we went home to the RV and collapsed and had dinner after a bit. There were Portland boater's pot lucks and pizza nights too. There were special day trips to Cerritos beach and Stone Island beach. These are beaches at either end of Mazatlan.



The 1st is a point where the locals go on their time off put there was two restaurants there and a small ponga fishing fleet, plus some vendors selling souvenirs. There

wasn't much of a beach, but it made for a nice day visit. The second one was much more fun. We had to take a ponga ferry to the other side of the old harbor and cross over an isthmus to get to the beach area.



This consisted of a very long beach several miles long, with more than a dozen or so palapa restaurants scattered along the northern portion of the beach. You could swim, walk on the beach horseback ride or just lay in a hammock under the shade of the palalpa. We had lunch, flew kites and took long walks on the beach, it was a great day. The marina had several events we went to as well.

[View the Playa Bruja Beach Album 1](#)

[View the Playa Bruja Beach Album 2](#)

[View the Cerritos Beach album](#)

[View the Stone Island album](#)

The marina put on a very nice Thanksgiving event, with live music, a great dinner and fireworks at the end. There were the Friday night cruiser get together's, and Tuesday and Thursdays afternoon dominos. During Christmas there were visits from an orphanage dance group and Pasada children performing group and other events.

[View the Thanksgiving Day party album](#)

The work on the boat went on non-stop. Holes were cut, made bigger and bigger, the old fiberglass torn off and the remaining deck faired by sanding creating a fine dust in the air and everywhere below. By now there were three people working on the deck. More bad spots reveled themselves, and were cut out.



By mid-December nearly a third of the main cabin top deck had been cut away and smaller holes were to be found on top the head roof and on the port aft deck next to the pilothouse. The holes were plugged using 3 and a 1/3 4' x 8' sheets of 1/2 inch marine plywood. Some of the rot had gotten into the support stringers under the top deck. These were repaired using some 2" x 4" fir wood I had brought down for another purpose.



The old and new stringer pieces were joined together using a "scarf" joint. The new plywood was then laid on top, with additional support around the edges provided by "butt" joints. Once all the holes were closed up the cracks had to be filled in with putty and faired smooth by sanding. Next the entire deck had to be refiber glassed. They used 1 layer of 18oz cloth and laid out 3 long pieces that covered the whole main cabin deck and applied resin. The other spots were covered too. Next came a couple of more coats of resin and then fairing in the entire deck. During this time we stayed away from the boat, as there was great clouds of white resin dust rising up around the boat.

[View the entire deck restoration picture album](#)

Needless to say the inside of the boat was a mess! Next we had the inside walls and ceilings sanded in the sleeping area, then cleaned up that mess and had the ceilings painted. We painted the walls in the sleeping areas ourselves. By the end of December 98 % of their work was done and we were ready for the work to end! (But we had 98 % of our work remaining.) One day, I said to Susan that maybe in 3 or 4 weeks it will look like what we expected it to look like when we arrived in October. This has been such a big project so far, we hadn't even started the engine yet!

Susan and Kathy worked on replacing the dingy cover. These are like "chaps" that cover the tubes and protect them from the sun. Tom and myself applied glue to a couple of patches and to reglued some handles and other parts back onto the dingy tubes. Atleast the dingy was coming together quick! We still had to get the dingy engine running.

[View the dingy cover picture album](#)

I reinstalled the VHF radio, fixed in the states, so we could talk to our friends. Our friends on Awahnee loaned us a spar VHF radio for the RV, so that we could talk from the boat to the RV and talk to the other boats from the RV. We got the refrigerator working so we can have cold water to drink while working at the boat. I did buy a new (used) 75watt solar panel for \$200US which was as a good price, when I get it hooked up that will give us a total of 309 watts or about 15amp/hr of charging capacity.

I managed to check out the GPS, stereo and the DC to AC Inverter and TV to see if they worked which they did. But that's about it on testing out the various boat systems. No toilet yet, no on board water pressure system, no water maker, no anchor windlass (although we did take our anchor chain all 275' of it in to be regalvanized) No HF radio, no radar yet. ETC...

I am still investigating smaller suspect areas that were identified by the surveyor as possible issues. A few days before Christmas I found a new spot near the entrance gate on the starboard side. It was on the gate and went over the side into the hull, but only a few inches.



I had to remove all the bad wood and replace it with good wood and then reglass the area. Also, I removed all of the glass around the main mast base because the fiberglass was loose and trapping moisture and creating small pockets of dry rot.



So that area is drying out for a few days and then I'll reglass it. So the quest goes on looking for problems and trying to prevent situations like we're recovering from now.

Near the end of the year a group of us cruiser took a day trip to a small coastal town named Teacapan. This was a nice break from the boat work. On the way to this town we stopped at a another town El Rosario that had a unique mining history and a unique story about its church.



It seems that the first church had been built on top of mines, or maybe the mines were dug underneath. At some point the church started to sink, so the parishioners moved the church stone by stone to its current location. This occurred 100 years ago. The church also is one of the few remaining churches that still have a gold inlaid altar sitting. Teacapan is located on an estuary open to the ocean and feed by a river. It has several types of bird rookeries and we wanted to see if we could get a boat ride out among the birds for some up close viewing.



We did this for 2 and half hours had a wonderful time. One of our group was a birder and a biologist and he provided a most interesting commentary as we went along. We had a great meal while waiting for our trip to begin. Also on the way home we stopped at some of the local RV campgrounds to see about future visits. All-in-all we had a great day and have added to our experiences.

[View the Teacapan picture album](#)

We're not even sure we'll get to go for a sail this year. Although our hopes are to get her to the boat yard and haul her to fix any problems and for some new bottom paint. After the haulout, we'll see if we can do some sailing or just repark her, close her up and head back north to the USA.

Sailing was not to be, as the start of the next year was a mixture of visitations and sicknesses! These combined to cause big delays in the boat projects.

[View Entire Mexico 2004 album](#)

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Note: Our email address requires the @ sign, not included here to minimize spamming.

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# The Adventure Continues in 2005

[Home](#)

[Photos](#)

[The Log](#)

[Links](#)

[Exit](#)

## 2005 Table of Contents

- [1. Log Entry: 1/01/2005 - 3/7/2005 Family & Friends Visitations and the Illnesses](#)
- [2. Log Entry: 3/8/2005 - 3/24/2005 The Haulout](#)
- [3. Log Entry: 3/25/2005 - 4/15/2005 Preparing to leave Mexico](#)
- [4. Log Entry: 4/16/2005 - 4/25/2005 The trip back to the USA](#)
- [5. Log Entry: 4/25/2005 - 5/6/2005 Back in the USA, Arizona Fun](#)
- [6. Log Entry: 5/6/2005 - 5/22/2005 The Road to Mckinney, Texas](#)
- [7. Log Entry: 5/22/2005 - 6/26/2005 Mckinney, Texas Visit](#)
- [8. Log Entry: 6/27/2005 - 10/30/2005 Austin, Texas Working and Playing](#)
- [9. Log Entry: 10/31/2005 – 12/31/2005 Work Resumes On Perpetua](#)

[Return To The Log Index](#)

# 2005 Log Entries

## 1. Log Entry: 1/01/2005 - 3/7/2005 Family & Friends Visitations and the Illnesses

The first part of January was devoted to boat & RV cleanup and close out of the all the work done in December. It was also spent getting ready for Pat's family visit. Their visit was to be followed closely by a visit from two friends from SIYC and then following that up by a couple visiting Awahnee, but whom we knew from our boating days on the Columbia. Then unknown to us these visits would be followed up by several weeks of sicknesses. Some work was done on the boat during this time but it was difficult to mount a large scale serious effort. None the less we had to get the boat ready to go into the yard which we had planned for at the end of February, but ended up happening the first part of March. Also during this time we went to the "San Javiercito" exhibit, and watched with awe while the first annual small boat regatta came off without a hitch.

During the first week of January we went to see a hand crafted exhibit entitled "San Javiercito". This was a complete city and countryside scene made out of paper, cardboard and miscellaneous pieces of odds and ends. The exhibit was



done by a grandmother who was showing her grandson, what could be done with paper and junk, but she sort of got carried away. Because in the end it took over her living room dining room a small storage room, a portion of her back yard. It was very fascinating to see all the different scenes in extreme detail, even to the

point of having a mini TV playing in a front room scene! (Can you spot it in the picture?) It cost us a bus ride fair (\$1.50 round trip) and \$0.45 (5 peso) donation. It took up the better part of an afternoon.

My parents and sister (Diane) arrived on during the first week of January. Diane only had a week to spend with us while the folks had 2 weeks available for their visit. We invited Diane to stay with us in the RV, thus saving her the hotel bill.



Diane, Susan and another friend Glenda spent quite a lot of time paling around together sightseeing and "Shopping", and "Shopping", etc. They visited downtown a couple of times and the "Gold Zone" a lot. They made a trip out into the country with some friends who had a car and they wanted to go for a day trip. They visited a town called Copala and Concordia.

Copala is an old silver and gold mining town. Its up in the Serria Madres Mountains and thus the town is built among the hills. The streets are up and down throughout the town.



The streets themselves are narrow and made of cobblestone. There are a few gift and artisan shops and of course a fair sized central plaza with a gazebo and an ancient church, which was built in the 1500's. A lot of the homes along the main street are brightly colored and quite nicely appointed with decorations and or period architecture. There are several good restaurants too!



Concordia is renowned for its





furniture factories. In their town plaza they have a



giant rocking chair to emphasize these factory products. Everyone who stops there has to sit in the chair! (they did) The folks on the other hand, just wanted to be in a warm place and visit with their son and daughter-in-law. So they spent a lot of time sitting in beach chairs and visiting. Pat tried to do some minor projects on the boat but didn't really get much done. Diane left after one week. From then on Pat & Susan spent the afternoons and evenings with Pat's parents. The folks left on a Friday and the next day a new set of visitors arrived, Bev & Kim.

The day Diane left the marina held its first ever, small boat sailing regatta.







This consisted of the participants creating a small boat (not greater than 18") and sailing it across the lagoon. It was great fun to watch and see all the creative entries. The event was "put" on with much fan fair and ado. There were a surprising number of entrants and it was quite a race to be hold.



Then of course there was the "betting" and the awards ceremony, followed by the

bragging rights! Of course the fellow holding the trophy is the husband of the boat builder! Great fun was had by all!

[View the entire album](#)

One of the boat activities that did get done was the reglvanizing of all the chain a board Perpetua. This required removing it, all 375 pounds of it and then hauling it over to a pickup point on the other side of the marina. Tom plus his dingy from Awahnee helped with the send off, while Brent and his car from Albion and Will from Tica helped return it to the boat.



There were 7 other boats having their chain reglvanized too, this was necessary to cut down the costs and to made it possible to meet the minimum weight requirements, set by the galvanizing company (2000lbs). The chain had to be shipped to a city about 100 miles away and returned. It took three plus weeks to be returned with some anxious delays. We had the marina manager involved from the beginning, which helped. In the end, it all worked out good and only cost us about

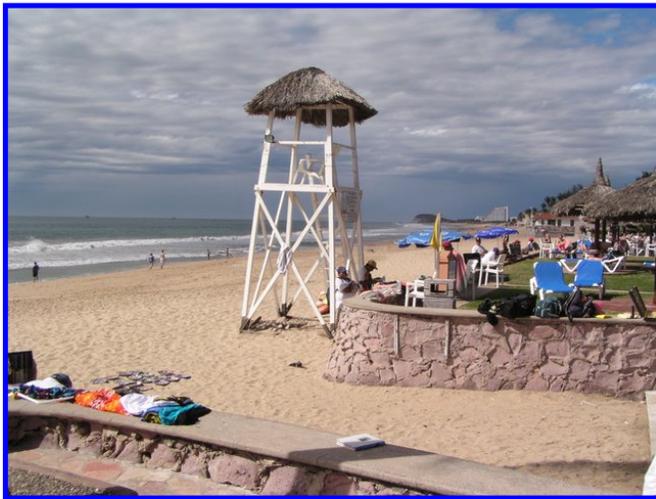
\$200us. Quite reasonable considering that the chain is like new now!

Bev & Kim, two cruising lady friends from Portland arrived for a weeks visit. They were staying in a condo just north a few miles from the marina.



Of course all the girls had to abandon their normal activities and spend time with the new arrivals. Well you can guess what they all did, Shop, Shop & Shop. To be fair they did do some sightseeing, had a few dinner parties and took another day trip back to Copala and Concordia. The crews from Perpetua and Awahnee plus the visiting ladies went. This was a daylong adventure and it was a lot of fun for everyone. We rented a van and we all went in one vehicle. This added to the jocularity and general fun! Susan acted as the tour guide as she had just been to these places, so she knew the neat places and good resturants.







During their visit, Pat came down with some sort of an intestinal virus. This knocked him out for 4 days and kept him close to the rest room and in bed. Needless to say, not much work got done on the boat. The ladies left after one week.

[View the entire album](#)

After a few days rest the next set of friends arrived from Portland. These were also old boating friends and guests of Awahnee. There were the usual dinner parties and potlucks, but mostly, they were escorted around Mazatlan, by Awahnee's crew. This allowed Perpetua's crew to resume work or at least that's what we had intended, but oh no, Pat got an awful head cold, that knocked him out for a several days. This ended up lasting for almost 3 weeks on and off. The only consoling part of these illnesses was that quite a few other boaters and visiting folks came down

with the same things. Not much work done on the boat either, not good!

By mid February Pat was feeling better. Work had started to resume in earnest on the boat. We had set a target date of the end of February to haul out the boat. This of course was dependent on the motor working, which we had not yet tried to start! So we got the bottom of the boat cleaned enough to free up the engine in takes and changed out all the engine fluids, including the transmission. Once the prep work was done we turned over the engine slowly a couple of times and then started it up. It had some air in the fuel lines, and died shortly. Once that was cleared out she started up and ran as if the last startup was just yesterday, instead of 2 ½ years ago! The main dry rot that originally started all the work was fixed and sanded smooth by the end of the end year. We still had to paint the repaired deck and reattach deck hardware, sand and paint other parts of the deck.

The dingy engine hadn't been started yet either and we needed that done in case we needed a dingy while enroute to the boat yard. Tom from Awahnee helped me tune it up and get that started. Once again the engine started and worked as if it was started yesterday!

During the course of the deck restoration process Pat discovered 2 new areas of dry rot. One was a small one, that could wait until after the yard haul out. However the other one couldn't wait.





This involved tearing out a 4 foot square on the forward deck. Pat devoted six days to getting this fixed and the hardware that was to be mounted there remounted. The boat yard delayed our scheduled arrival by one day this allowed us to finish up a few loose ends and make her habitable.

## 2. **Log Entry: 3/8/2005 - 3/24/2005 The Haulout**

On March 7<sup>th</sup> Perpetua's crew spent, the one and only night of the season, on board her, then at 6 AM the next morning we left the dock, with no mishaps and headed for the yard. The crew from Awahnee accompanied Perpetua's crew and we had a nice trip over to the yard. When we crossed the bar entrance to the ocean



it was flat and we crossed with a sigh of relief. There were squalls and rainbows around and we got caught in a shower or two! It took 2 hours to get to the yard, once there we waited 4 hours before we were actually hauled out. This was because of another yacht that had been launched earlier that day was in the area where we had to be, to be hauled out. Finally it left and we were moved in to

position.

This was the first time Perpetua had been hauled out by a 100 ton "travel lift". Perpetua was fitted into a narrow slot of water about 28' wide and 100' long. The travel lift has large straps hanging from its top. It is capable of self-powered movement. It parked over the slot and lowered the straps under the boat. Once in place it merrily lefts straight up. Whatever is in the straps, comes up.



Perpetua was no match for this lift and it had no trouble lifting and moving it to a work spot. Of course yard workers went to lunch with Perpetua still swing freely in the sling. So, we had our lunch too! Awahnee's crew caught a lift back to the marina with some other boaters that were making their own haul out arrangements. After lunch the boat was settled onto blocks and was pressure washed. We left for the day after that. The next day the real work started.

We had our boat repair guy survey the bottom and check out how we were going to remove the shaft coupling. We found two areas that had dry rot and would require fixing. The process was one of cutting it out, patching it, reglassing it and

then paint it with the rest the haul. We thought that would be all the haul work, but oh no, the yard workers started pointing out small pockets of water, called water blisters. These had to be sanded and either reglassed or just resined before painting.



Of course there were a couple of areas that turned into "large" areas to be reglassed where the water had really gotten under the glass. There was over 175 of these spots. Our friends from Awahnee came to our rescue by showing up for a day's work and work they did. They really helped push us over the top of getting that job done. It still took a few more days to finish all the spots plus the new ones we seemed to continually find. We still had the shaft coupling to finish.

I had to replace a rubber bellows type device that was part of a dripless packing gland. This required separating the shaft from the transmission. There is this coupling that holds them together that decided it wasn't going to come a part. Once apart it wasn't going to go back together correctly either! The bellows was replaced, but during reattachment, Pat had broken off a bolt in a hole and the yard

had to get it out first, but with the help of the yard workers it was reattached. At last the boat was ready to be relaunched!



This happened without a hitch. The trip back turnout to be a slog into the wind, in which Perpetua bounces around a lot. Susan hit the bunk and Pat steered Perpetua. We made it back to the dock without any problems. Awahnee's crew was standing by to help dock, but we tied up before help arrived, safe at last! On with the work!

[View the entire album](#)

### 3. **Log Entry: 3/25/2005 – 4/15/2005 Preparing to leave Mexico**

Just because we were back from the yard didn't mean it was time to play, far from it. We still had that small dry rot spot and painting above and below. Time was beginning to run out on our Mexican visit as our visa's would run out at the end of April. We had decided to spend about two weeks leaving Mexico and do some touring on the way. So, that left about 4 weeks to get everything done and to do

the chores we usually do to put the boat to bed.

The deck needed a second coat of paint especially if we were going to be gone again. We wanted to have the rigging cleaned and polished. This would include an inspection of the cable and fittings. No problems found thank goodness! There was a few "more" fiberglass cracks that needed to be addressed but not enough time to do them right. So Pat had to coat them with several coats of resin to hold



them over until next season. A corrosion issue around the rudder had to be resined. These and other projects ate up two and half weeks of the four weeks. We had wanted to wash and wax the boat but that wasn't to be. It was time to shift project lists and start to put the boat to sleep. This went off without a hitch. We even finished up a day early!

#### 4. **Log Entry: 4/16/2005 - 4/25/2005 The trip back to the USA**

Tom and Kathy spent the night and we left Mazatlan early on April 16. Our friends from Awahnee were to ride up with us as far as San Carlos where they would be picking up their truck. We had planned on 4 stops before entering the US. Los Mochis was just an over night stop, while, Alamos, San Carlos, and Bahia Kino would be extended stays with sight seeing.

We swung by the marina to pickup some of Awahnee's gear, said some more good byes and then we were off. We reached Los Mochis with only one slight problem. Before leaving we had tried to top off our tire pressure and broke one fellows pump. Then we tried to fill them at various gas stations along the way and either their pressure pumps weren't working or they didn't have enough pressure to fill our tires to the correct pressure that Pat thought they needed. In fact in some cases

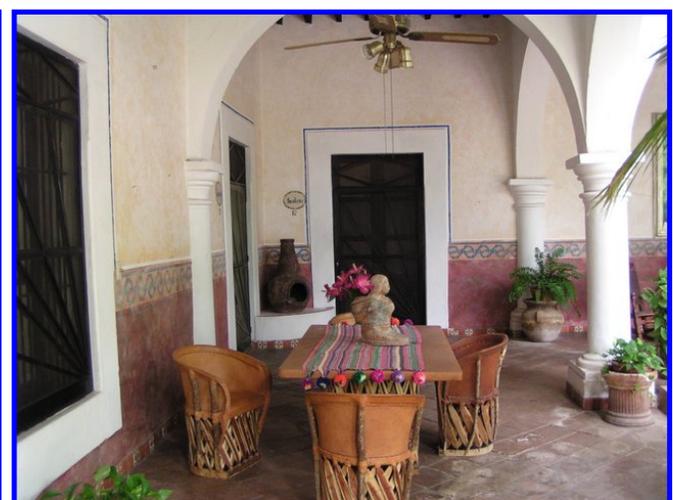
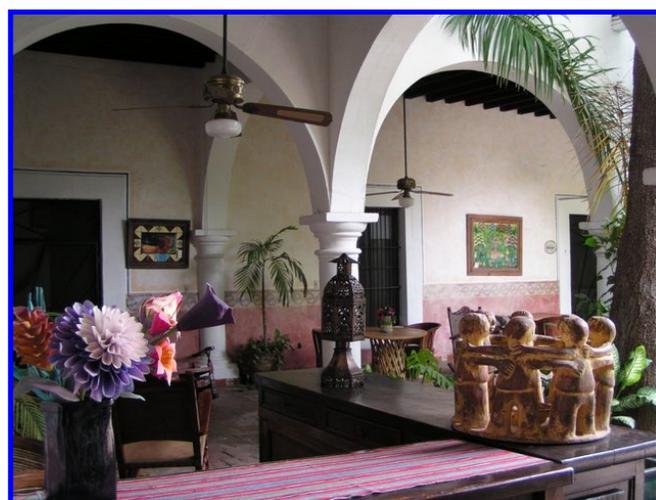
we were actually letting air out of the tires as we were trying to put it in! This continued until we reached Alamos. Where we meet a fellow who had 30+ years in trucking and had taken many tire classes. He pointed out a label, in plain sight on the RV door, which told us what the correct pressure that we should be using, so we adjusted all the tire pressure and had them almost equal at 90psi. We waited until stateside to get them all equal. Now onto the fun stuff!

In Alamos we had found a RV park near enough to town to walk in, which we did. The allure in this town was the architecture and the town's age. It was an old silver mining town that had almost disappeared until some Canadians and US folks bought and restored many of the old hasenda buildings. We started walking around town, when we got to the plaza we were approached by a guide, his name was "Candy Joe". He said hat he had studied in the US and then moved back to Mexico. Usually we don't accept these offers put this guy spoke good English and he was going to be cheap \$50 pesos (\$4.75us) for each couple.



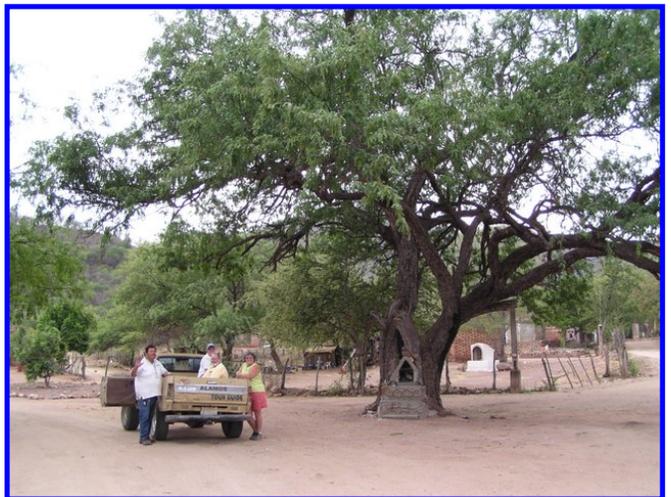
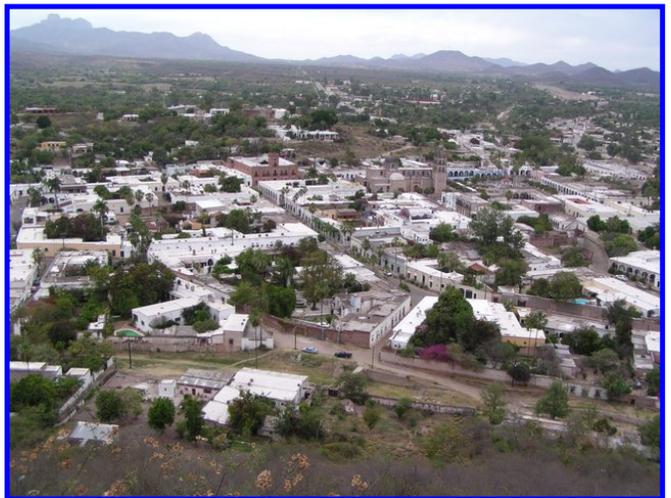
So we accepted his offer and let him guide us around the town. He was most interesting. We got to go into several buildings some private homes and other

public buildings. He gave us the history of Alamos while we walked around the city. He noticed that Pat liked taking pictures of unique doorway entrances and made sure we saw our fair share of them!



After a couple of hours of walking around, we were ready for lunch. While at lunch we decided that if we could find a ride to the near by viewpoint we'd like to see the town from on high.

After lunch we approached our guide and ask about taxis up to the viewpoint. He offered to take us up and wait while we looked around and bring us back for \$150 Peso's (\$14.50us). We did this and had a great time. The view was really cool as we could see all the places we had visited and the entire town's layout. While there the guide told us about the various things we were seeing. Also he told us about a old silver smiting town up the road about 20 miles away. He offered to take us there and back for 400 pesos (\$38.00us) for the four of us. We did this and had a wonderful time bouncing off into the back roads to this town in a rickety old pickup truck.



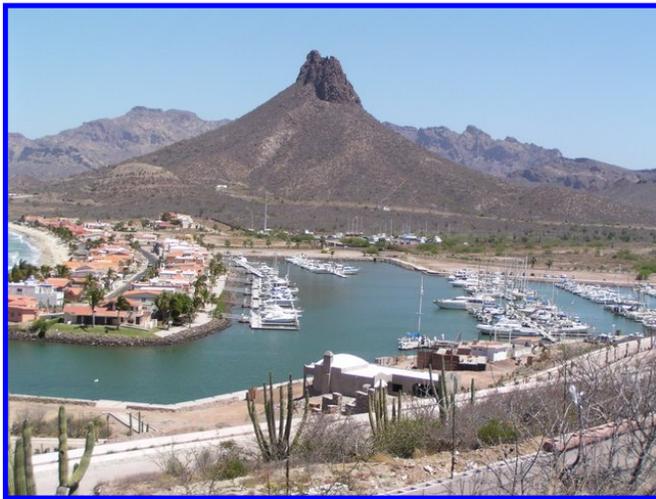


We saw the old run down smelter, the town and the towns' folks. It was well worth it, it was one of those great adventures in life, and our guide even brought us back to the RV Park when we were done. Total cost for both couples \$650 pesos (\$64.00US), not bad for a days worth of touring and to watch "Candy Joe" to see if his pants would fall down, they never did though. You see Joe had eaten too much candy and his pants didn't quite fit! Talk about loow riders! The next day we left for San Carlos, which is just outside of Guaymas.

[View the entire album](#)

When we visit the Guaymas and the San Carlos area we stay in San Carlos, because that's where the boating and other gringos stay. We stayed at an RV park that had reasonable rates and free WiFi wireless for our computer. That way we could stay in the motor home and check our email. Tom called the storage place where their truck was located. They came out to pick us up and take us back to their lot. Pat went with Tom for the retrieval. Next day, we toured the dock areas and found only one couple we knew who had just gotten there and had arrived with an engine problem. Later in the day we all meet for dinner.







Usually while in San Carlos we haven't had a car so this time we toured all over the area. We went as far north along the coastal road, as we could and ended up at a Mexican fishing village. We toured Guaymas's downtown, visited a local church and the water front areas. We drove around the Guaymas bay and found another boat haulout and storage facility. We drove out to another bay to visit a pearl farm located on a college campus. Susan got herself a pearl and silver necklace. However we missed the tour as it was too late in the day by the time we got there. We spent one day driving south of Guaymas to two different beach areas looking for and finding "Shells". These beaches were actually setup for the locals to use, but when we were there they were both empty. Too soon we had to leave and head to Bahia Kino.

[View the entire album](#)

I had heard about Bahia Kino from RV'ers and it sounded like a nice place to visit and indeed it was quite lively. Like a lot of Mexican towns there 's a gringo section and a Mexican section. We spent time shopping in both towns. However it was off season and both seemed rather sleepy.



Of course there was some more shelling to be done on the beaches in front of the RV park. The gringo section has an old part and a new part, with large home developments going in, soon it will be even more over crowded with gringos! After a couple of days we left for the boarder and Green Valley, Arizona.

[View the entire album](#)

As we approached the boarder, we had to stop on the Mexican side first to drop off our temporary import sticker. This was a little confusing, but we managed. The US boarder crossing was a non event although we were inspected. We had to give up some pork products and a few vege's. Then it was a 45 minute drive to Green Valley, with only one stop for a boarder patrol check.

## 5. **Log Entry: 4/25/2005 - 5/6/2005 Back in the USA, Arizona Fun**

We had emailed Mike and Sheryl (Salty Dog) of our arrival. We were able to park our RV in a parking lot near by while visiting. When we arrived we found out that Mike was under the weather and working too! We visited with Sheryl for a bit said hello to Mike when he got home and then let him be to rest. So we spent our free time visiting the local area. We stayed a couple of days and then went up to Tucson.

We visited the Titan II missile museum, right there in Green Valley. This is mostly an underground facility. The tour started above ground looking at some of the equipment and rocket engines on exhibition.





Then we were escorted below. There is a dead missile in the silo and the control room is dead as well, but both are in tact and look ready to go. This was quite a tour and very unnerving to think this was once a cold war nuclear weapon.

[View the entire album](#)

Next we went to the Tubac Presidio State Park, Tubac, which is about 20 miles south of Green Valley. This turned out to be mostly a tourist trap (shops & restaurants) located in a town surrounding a 350 year old ruins of a Spanish Fort.



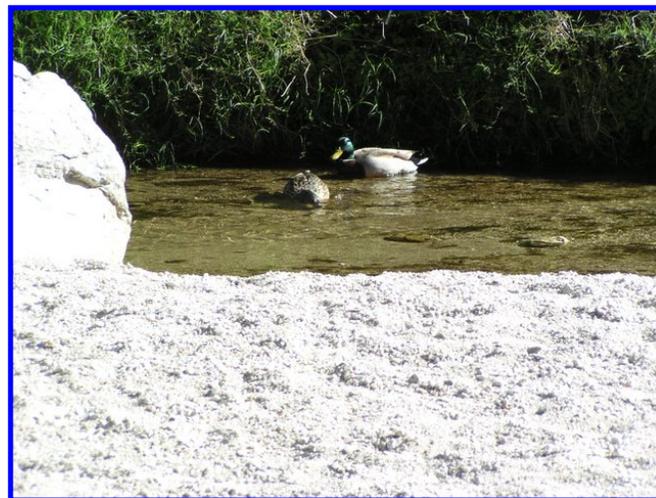


The fort ruins and its history was very interesting. It was an outpost on the Santa Fe Trail, from old Mexico to California. It factored in on early Arizona history too. We spent the evening with Mike and Sheryl, as Mike was feeling better and left the next day for Tucson.

[View the entire album](#)

While in Tucson we had some errands to do but also spent time seeing a couple of sights. Tom and Kathy are still with us, traveling in their pickup and staying with us in the RV.

Part of one afternoon we all went to Sanbino Canyon. This is a state park located right on the skirts of Tucson. It leads up into a canyon in the mountains from the desert floor below. It has a small creek running through it, which did have some water in it when we were there. You can walk the road and trails or you can ride tram to the end and back. You can get on and off the tram at various points and walk in between these pickup points.

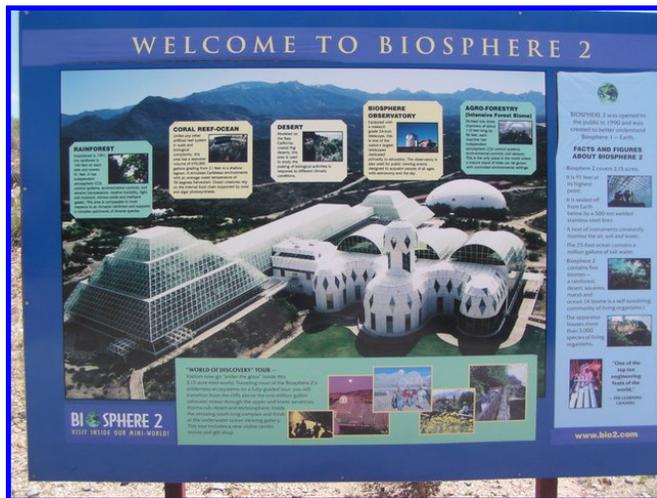


We road to the end and then on the way back and got off to walk down hill between 3 pickup points before hopping back on the tram to complete our tour. It is a very picturesque with hills rising on either side covered with cactus and small shrubs and trees. As you get higher in the canyon it got a little cooler, it was also getting later in the day which helped the temperature. Also the lateness created very nice shadows everywhere you looked. Along the creek grew normal type trees and bushes you might see along most creeks. We didn't see much wild life,

but we're sure there was some around.

[View the entire album](#)

The next day we went to the Biosphere 2. If you've never heard of this place it's an environmentally controlled building, which was setup to run experiments from inside for a self-sustaining ecological environment. Back in the 90's a group of people lived inside for 2 years without outside resources. They grew their own food, had livestock and made water. There was plant life inside to make oxygen. A salt water lagoon, with wave action and a coral reef with tropical fish.



There was lots of different areas setup to grow the various plants needed in the different seasons of the year to make oxygen. These plants range from tropical rain forests to desert landscapes. It would even rain inside. You are able to walk around the place and through the various settings and behind the scenes. It was very interesting tour of a fascinating place, including the huge building breathing air bags, a must see!

[View the entire album](#)

Our time in Tucson was at a close and we moved on to Whetstone Arizona. This is where our friends Ed and Randy live in their round earthen home. We had stored our car at their place and it was time to retrieve it. They live about 65 miles SE of Tucson, down highway 10 and south of Benson. We were able to park the RV on their property as they have 5 acres with a nice driveway.

While there we'd go into the large town of Sierra Vista to shop and we would see the Fort Huachuca Army base along the way. Ed and Randy had said that civilians are able to tour part of the historic base. So one afternoon we visited the base, once we got through security we could pretty much go where we wanted to but we went to the see museum and then took a drive up into the near by mountains to see some petroglifs. The fort is very old and has taken part in many historic events which included the Spanish American war and being the first army base for the training of companies of persons of color during the Second World war.



Now it's a top security intelligence base among other things that happen on Army bases. The drive up the canyon to see the petroglyphs was fun as we passed the shooting range with maneuvers going on too! It seemed like it took a long time and the road started to get rougher to drive but before we were truly "Off Roadin' It" we did find the location of the petroglyphs. We visited the site for a while and then turned around and returned home.

[View the entire album](#)

Ed and Randy had planned a big cruiser party at their place. It was quite a turn out of people from all over the area and some that were just passing through. We only knew about a third of the folks. Some are past cruisers, dirt owners and others are still doing it one way or another.

It was time for Tom and Kathy to hit their own trail as they had many a mile to cover before the summer was over. We had had a great time traveling with them and it was sad to see them waving goodbye as they zoomed off down the dirt road to the highway.

Our Motorhome had an appointment for some servicing with La Mesa RV back in Tucson. So on Monday we headed back to Tucson. We figured that we would need a place to stay while the RV was in the shop. We had been talking with some cruising friends from Albion (Brent/Molly) who were house sitting a dog in Tucson. They invited us to stay with them while the Motorhome was being serviced. This turned into a very nice relaxing visit. It ended up taking two days for the servicing to be completed. During this time we just visited and toured the local area. It was nice to be able to slow down and do next to nothing.

Soon to it was time for Perpetua's crew to head in some direction. We had decided that we were going to Texas to become residents. So it was to be travel east this summer and not north. We had some friends along the way we wanted to see and that was our next stop. Off we went trailing our car behind, by ourselves, and on the road again!

## 6. **Log Entry: 5/6/2005 - 5/22/2005 The Road to McKinney, Texas**

Fortunately for us we didn't have far to go before our first stop. We traveled to

Sunsites Arizona where are cruising Horst and Bea (Formally of Seadater), Toby and Linda (Formally of Dreamweaver) and John and Else (Formally of Dreamcatcher) have set homesteads in the high prairie. We had scheduled ourselves to stay with Horst and Bea. Unfortunately we had only allowed ourselves one day. This was because my (Pat's) drives license was expiring shortly and we needed to get to our new "Home Port" and become residents.



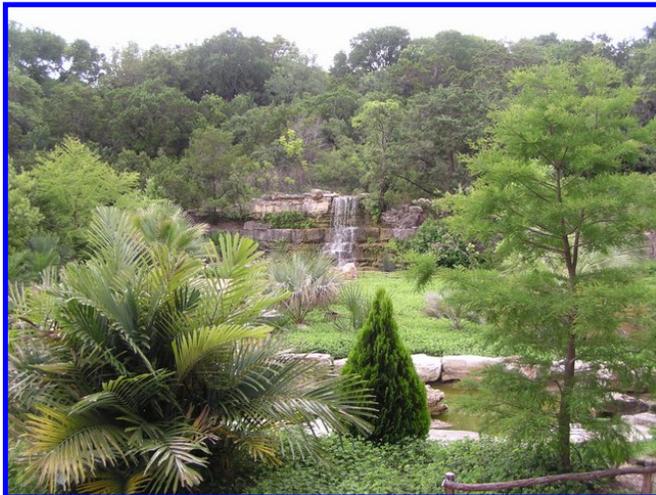
However we did have a very nice visit with Else, Bea an Horst and a great dinner and evening chatting. We'll be back by to spend more time. The next few days were spent making miles a cross the country. We stopped each night to rest but didn't spend any time at these stops. These stops included Las Cruces, NM, Fort Stockton, TX., Hondo, TX, and finally Livingston, TX for a total of 1160 miles.

[View the entire album](#)

Livingston, Texas is the home base of the Escapees club. We had been members of this club for a couple of years and had done research on different states and

ways to become residents. The club offered a mail service, which can also be used as a recognized mailing address by the county and the state. So we had to get signed up with them and then register our vehicles with the county. We're now Texans! We spent several days getting this done and doing sight seeing. Then it was time to head up to McKinney Texas where my daughter lives. However first we had to make a stop in Austin, Texas. We had gotten an email from some good cruising friend Herman and Nancy (Sea Tern). They were going to be in Austin visiting their son and his family. We made arrangements to meet up with them.

We got to Austin before our scheduled rendezvous with our friends so we became tourists. We visited the downtown area, and went to the Zilker gardens and the Lady Bird (Johnson) Wild Flowers gardens. Both of these parks were quit lively and in bloom when we visited. Zilker Gardens has very large grounds and we easily spent 3+ hours wondering around looking at all the flower exhibits.



[View the entire album](#)

Plus there is a nature conservancy, which was interesting to go through too. The

LBJ Wild Flower Garden Park wasn't nearly as large as Zilker.



[View the entire album](#)

However it was laid out in such a way that you walk around many exhibits of wild flowers in their natural settings and habitats. There were even several exhibits setup to give examples of how wild flowers could be incorporated into your own back yard. All in all it was very nice to visit these parks. We spent a very day with Herman and Nancy, had dinner with them and their family. We hadn't seen them for almost a year and they had been cruising in Central America and Ecuador, so there was a lot to talk about. We headed North to McKinney, after our visit.

We had been talking to my daughter since we had gotten into the states. So as we were leaving Livingston she had said that she and her husband and some friends were going to go camping. We asked if we could join them and they said yes. So they picked a park south of Dallas and we meet them at Cedar Hills State Park. The park is on a reservoir, which was a good size lake. The park is quit large with many places to camp and provided lake access. There is an old homestead spread

in the park too, this was fun to visit and see how folks used to live here at the turn of the century. It was great to see my daughter and her husband and to spend time with them away from their busy lives. When the weekend was over we all headed up to McKinney and their place. They have 2 acres and had a place for us to park the rig while we looked for work. We had traveled around Texas, became residents and arrived at my daughters place before the end of May 25<sup>th</sup> (my birthday) our target date. Now it was time to get serious about finding a source of freedom chips for our cruising kitty!

## 7. Log Entry: 5/22/2005 – 6/26/2005 Mckinney, Texas Visit

Upon reaching Mckinney Susan went into high gear on the job search. We enjoyed my daughters' swimming pool and her and Jay's company. While we were Jenicas' cousin, my nephew, Danny came for a visit over a long memorial day weekend. We visited the Fort Worth Zoo during his visit.



[View the entire album](#)

This turned out to be a very nice zoo with lots of animals to see and great walking pathways all over the park. We enjoyed our full day but were real tired, hot and ready for the pool when we got back to Jenica's. Susan decided to go, for a weeks visit with her mother, in Pennsylvania before she landed a job and couldn't go. It was a good thing because while visiting she had a telephone interview for a job that she ultimately secured at Dell Computer in Austin, Texas. All to soon it was time to depart the Mckinney Resort.

## 8. **Log Entry: 6/27/2005 - 10/30/2005 Austin, Texas Working and Playing**

We drove to Austin on a Saturday to RV Park we picked out of a campground book. It was a nice park but it seemed like it was a ways away from the Dell campus. We drove around on Sunday to survey the other RV parks in the area and to locate where Susan had to go at Dell on the following Monday. It turned out that the first park we stopped at was the best that was the closest to Susan's job site. So we made ourselves at home and signed up for a monthly spot. It had a new pool that wasn't quite done otherwise it was a very nice park.

We made arrangement with Jenica and Jay to meet them over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend in the Canyon Lake area west of New Braunfel. This located about 80 miles south of Austin. They were going to camp along the Guadalupe River; we found an RV park near by, but on the river. Two of the main attractions were the water park named [Schlitterbahn](#) and tubing down the [Guadalupe River](#). We spent a day doing each. It was fun for us 50 somethings to hang with 20 somethings!





[View the entire album](#)

Schlitterbahn's is rated the number 1 water park in the US by the travel channel. It has 40 plus rides and I think we only went of 12 but it consumed the whole day. The longest ride took 45 minutes to do. There were undulating moving rivers you could tube along on and high shoot slides to go down it was some serious fun! The next we rent inner tubes and floated for 6 hours down the river. The way it works is the place you rent the tubes from puts you in at a location and has pickup points down river. Too relaxing but you did have to watch out for sunburn. A couple of times we had to paddle our tubes to make head way against a slight breeze but then we'd go around a bend the wind would drop and we could return to drifting. Need less to say that after two days of pure fun we were beet but we had to head back on the 4th because of work we were sad to go!

Once we get settled in a place we try to become tourists. So we collect pounds (literally) of information. One of the things we like to do is visit caverns, for one thing they are kewl and for another they are cool (literally). You see it had become very hot here in Austin and any relief was welcome. We've been to two caverns

here so far. They are the Natural Bridge and the Inner Space Cavern.

## [Inner Space Cavern](#)



[View the entire album](#)

## [Natural Bridge Cavern](#)



[View the entire album](#)

If you've been to a cavern then you know what they are like. You follow a path through it and sometimes you'll have a tour guide. They are just plain fascinating with all the different formations that nature can produce from just water and limestone.

Usually we would visit my daughter in McKinney once a month. On our visit in July we went to downtown Dallas to the JFK 6th floor museum. The museum is literally located on the 6th floor where the assassination took place. (No cameras are allowed) It was very eerie walking around looking at the exhibits and thinking of what had happened there, even the exact spot where the gunman shot out the window is available to look at.



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We also walked around the outside areas, both side of the street, up the grassy knoll, on the street corner, and examined the spots where the various photos and movies were taken. All in all it was most interesting and very creepy!

On our August visit we went to the Southfork Ranch of the Dallas TV show fame museum. We thought it was really neat to learn the history of the ranch and to be walking through the home and the grounds. No famous actors jumped out from behind curtains while we were there.



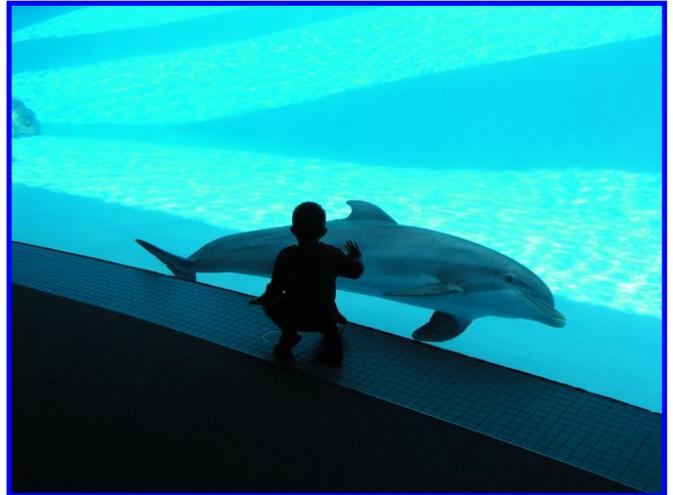
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It is amazing how small the pool and some of the rooms were, but I guess a lot of the filming was done in Hollywood. There is a gift shop of course, which we had to visit! It was worth an afternoon visit.

We decided that we needed a kid and grandkid fix, so in September we make a very quick visit to the Northwest. We flew into Seattle for our 7-day visit. We attended a surprise birthday party for Susan's oldest son Steve on Saturday. On Sunday we drove to Portland and attended a get together with Pat's family and Susan's grandson. On Monday we had another party with a bunch of Portland friends and drove back to Seattle on Tuesday, flying out of Seattle on Wednesday. It was short but sweet and it was great seeing everyone although briefly.

Pat's time in the states was getting short so we decided to do something special. We invited Jenica and Jay to join us in the RV at Port Aransas on the Texas gulf coast for a long weekend in the middle of October. The weather was perfect and we landed an RV park spot very near the beach. We visited the Texas State

Aquarium, and the USS Lexington. The aquarium was really very nice lots of exhibits; the coast guard was there that day and put on a demonstration of a rescue.



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After that we had some lunch and then visited the USS Lexington. This was a WWII aircraft carrier and involved with the Apollo space capsule recoveries.





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We decided to spend one day touring around seeing some of the area and then setting on the beach flying kites.



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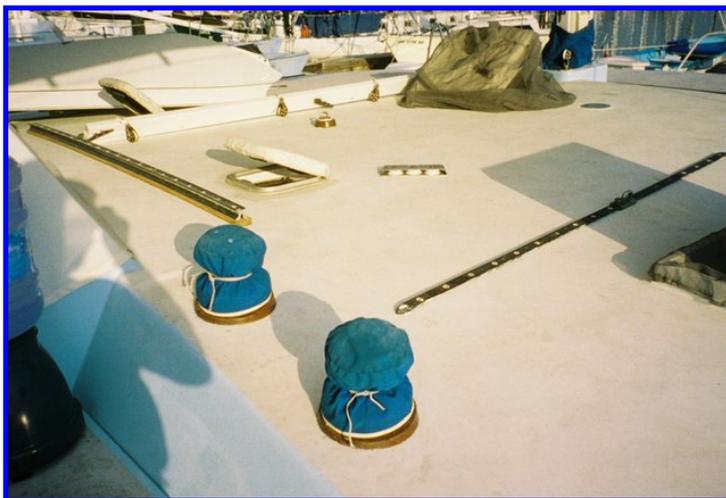
In the evening we went out to sea on a gambling/dinner cruise ship. This was

really different, on the way out to sea we ate dinner, once we past the 12-mile line the ship topped and the gambling started. We shot our wads and then sat around on the deck in the moonlight visiting and waiting until 11:30 when the ship fired up its engines and we went back to the harbor. This night was a lot of fun had by all. The next day we left to return to our homes.

All to soon Pat had to go to Mexico and continue the work on Perpetua, which was suspended last spring.

## 9. Log Entry: 10/31/2005 – 12/31/2005 Work Resumes On Perpetua

Upon arrival to the boat there are always jobs that need to be done just to make it livable after she's been closed up for several months. It took a couple of days to get them done including cleaning up and installing parts in the refrigerator. By the end of the week some deck hardware had been installed and ceiling panels cleaned and installed below decks.





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Over the weeks that followed the work progressed with all the deck hardware being reinstalled and all the fiberglass cracks patched. The two plastic opening ports in the head (bathroom) were torn out and the holes plugged up. These are being replaced because after 28 years they were beginning to fall apart. Once these were plugged I painted all the outside fiberglass spots that had been fixed including the plugged holes.





[View the entire album](#)

As a part of patching the holes I removed all the old cork covering the walls and old mirror tiles in the head on the inside. I hired some help (at a reduced rate) to start the sanding process inside walls of the head but his boss soon redeployed him.





[View the entire album](#)

By the end of November the help I had hired had both masts and booms and all the bilges painted. When doing the bilges everything in them came out and then restowed once the paint was dry. This in itself was a job! While I went home at X-mass they finished the remaining inside bilge areas. I was by now working on the interior of the main cabin. I finished sanding the walls in the head and cupboards and painted them. I refurbished the area surrounding diesel fill cap and rebedded the fill cap onto the deck. I did a few other little jobs inside the cabin that had been on the "list" for a long time.

During this time I participated in some but not all of the cruiser happenings. I went to the thanksgiving dinner, cruiser potlucks, cruiser swap meets, X-mass Posada presentation and Salvation Army Orphanage dance show.





[View the entire album](#)

I ate out a few times and was invited over to dinner at Ahwahnee a few times and the TG Wahzoo and our Portland friends that were spending time in a condo near by the marina.

Susan was steady in her work and attending her watercolor painting class. She met a lady in the RV park and was shown Swedish Weaving which Susan got

into whole hog! My harddrive on my PC died while in Mexico and I partially got it back before returning to the states but ultimately had to replace it once home. I returned to home in Austin on December 23<sup>rd</sup> for a X-mass break.

We took the RV up to Jenica's to celebrate the Christmas holiday and returned to Austin on the 27<sup>th</sup> as Jenica and Jay had vacation plans. Susan and I spent the remainder of the week and new years goofing around Austin as she had it off from work.

How to Contact Us:

## Perpetua's Crew

Email: svperpetua (at sign) yahoo.com

Note: Our email address requires the @ sign, not included here to minimize spamming.

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# The Adventure Continues in 2006

[Home](#)

[Photos](#)

[The Log](#)

[Links](#)

[Exit](#)

## 2006 Table of Contents

- [1. Log Entry: 1/11/2006 - 2/23/2006 Return to Boat Projects](#)
- [2. Log Entry: 3/24/2006 - 4/16/2006 To Mazatlan Mexico Adventure](#)
- [3. Log Entry: 4/16/2006 - 4/25/2006 Copper Canyon, Mexico Adventure](#)
- [4. Log Entry: 4/25/2006 - 5/13/2006 USA Adventures](#)
- [5. Log Entry: 5/14/2006 - 7/10/2006 Visiting Family & Friends](#)
- [6. Log Entry: 7/11/2006 - 10/18/2006 Back to Austin For Work & Play](#)
- [7. Log Entry: 10/19/2006 - 12/20/2006 Back To The Boat Projects](#)

[Return To The Log Index](#)

## 2006 Log Entries

## 1. **Log Entry: 1/11/2006 - 2/23/2006 Return to Boat Projects**

Pat returned to the boat on January 11<sup>th</sup>. Work resumed almost immediately on the interior of the boat. The head (bathroom) was finished, including the walls, the inside of the cupboards and all the mahogany wood oiled. The focus of all the effort was the areas in the main cabin of the main hull. Work progressed aft from the head in stages. First the bookshelves and hall shelves, then the settee and step areas including the insides, the galley cupboards starboard side next the port cupboards, and last the aft wall and hanging closet inside and out. Each surface received two coats of paint and two coats of oil.





Work moved along at a steady pace until Pat returned to Austin on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. When I left the main cabin was done with the exception of the oiled wood maybe needed a third coat, we'll see how it dries out over the summer storage.

The cruisers continued to have their weekly get together's, some of which I participated in, the swap meets, the Friday night gatherings, the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual small boat regatta, and lunches and dinners out. All the Portland folks had a great potluck dinner at one of their condos overlooking the sea. I decided not to go to the valentine's party as my valentine was working in Austin.





In February, I volunteered to help a team of cruisers participate in the Mazatlan sand castle/sculpture building contest. This took place on the beach (dah) in front of our favorite restaurant “Chili Pepper”. There were hundreds of other participates divided into several categories. We had 5 hours to build our entry before judging occurred. During the day the music blared loudly, the sand piled on and dried out, keeping it moist was a job unto itself and the visitor traffic picked up considerably, each one with a camera had to get in close for a shot of each sculpture. Our lead designer (Willem) decided to build an iguana and a sub-designer (Pat) later added a toad.





**This Is What The Real Sand Castle Artists Can do!**



[View the entire album](#)

After all the “art” was judged and the dignitaries seated on the stage and introduced they announced the winners within each category We were all floored to hear our team name called off for first place in our category! Hooray! We won 1000 pesos or about \$95US and we each got a certificate. I had fun and I got to meet some new people. Later that night we took our winnings and went out to dinner and spent it all and then some. Everyone had great fun.

Susan was busy with her work at Dell, watercolor classes/painting and Swedish weaving.

We were glad to be back together again soon her contract would be finished!

## 2. Log Entry: 3/24/2006 - 4/16/2006 To Mazatlan Mexico Adventure

Plan "A": Susan and I had this wild idea that we could actually take the boat for a cruise this spring. Well that was not to be as her contract lasted well into March and then we realized that we had a 90th birthday to celebrate in May, so our window of opportunity faded away. So to make the best of it we came up with plan "B". This plan included a quick RV trip to Mazatlan, this was to purely a boat parts delivery mission, and on the return trip north we would stop at the Copper Canyon, San Carlos and Bahia Kino. These last two stops were a repeat of last years return trip. Once back in the states we'd work our way north through, Arizona and Utah, seeing some sights and then northeast to end up in Minnesota. Once there we'd fly to Pennsylvania and back, for Susan's Mom's 90th birthday celebration. Once back we'd visit with my folks and family in Minnesota before heading off to an assumed location for Susan's next contract. That was plan "B"! What was finally executed was plan "E".

Susan finished work on March 23 we left on the 24<sup>th</sup>! Our first stop was McKinney, Texas, just north of Dallas. Our intention was a short visit with my daughter and her husband before heading out west on our trip. While there we discovered that somehow our auxiliary electrical generator had stopped working and then our heat pump/air conditioner started making a load noise. So off to the shop we went. Luckily we found a shop that would take us on sort notice. However 4 days later they were only starting to zero in on the generator problem and had replaced some parts on the heat pump but it still wasn't working 100% and needed more investigation. We offered to drive around town to expedite parts deliveries. This helped and by day 7 the RV was working again. We learned parts of the Dallas/Fortworth area we'd never have otherwise! We left McKinney only loosing a week off our schedule!

Across Texas we run into a horrible head wind, gusting to 40 – 55 miles per hour. At a rest stop I discovered that the right front of the motorhome front paneling had sprung loose from the RV frame. We stopped at El Paso, Texas, to see if we could find a place to get it fixed. No Luck! The next day we pushed on to Tucson, Arizona. We'd called ahead and were told that if we could get to this one RV service place by noon that they'd try to get us in and fixed ASAP. This meant we had to get going by 6:30AM. We made it with 30 minutes to spare. Sure enough by 4:30PM that day it was finished. While we were waiting for the RV to be finished, we visited some of our cruising/RV friends that were

staying at a local RV park. Upon seeing the park and our friends we decided to catch our breath and visit with them for a couple of days.

At last it was time to go south to Mazatlan. Upon reaching Nogales, Arizona about 95 miles south of Tucson, I received a phone call that my mother was in the hospital. I got a hold of her there and she assured me that all was well and to go ahead and proceed with our trip into Mexico. A few days later we learned that she had three blood vessel stints put in that day, however we had crossed the boarder and went out of communication with the US for several days. The trip to Mazatlan was uneventful and a fast 2 days. We spent the first day resting and connecting up with our friends. The next day we took 2 pickup truck loads of boat supplies off the RV to the boat. The next couple of days were spent visiting, although most of the cruisers had left for the summer, eating out and preparing to head north. Our friends from Awahnee were going to be traveling with us and we were going to tow their pickup, so Tom had to rig up turn signal wiring and make sure the hitch would work.

### 3. **Log Entry: 4/16/2006 - 4/25/2006 Copper Canyon, Mexico Adventure**

We were in no rush leaving Mazatlan at a comfortable 10:00 Am. We arrived in El Fuerte, arrived about 1:30PM and found the RV park, but didn't find anyone to check in with, so we just parked and hooked up. The owner showed up around 5:00PM, I'd been in email contact with Bill from the only [RV park in El Fuerte](#) and luckily it turned out to be a nice park with a very helpful owner and free WiFi internet. However the whole town had been over run by some nasty biting bugs! We wore long sleeve shirts and pants to protect ourselves, this worked however we melted from the heat! The next day we went into town and walked around. We saw the main plaza, municipal palace, fort replica/museum and some of the older mansions that had been turned into hotels. We had lunch at a very nice hotel and found out that the [Hotel Posada del Hidalgo](#), would arrange for our train tickets (\$55US/Ea.) and arrange for the final hotel we needed for our last night in the canyon.



[View the entire album](#)

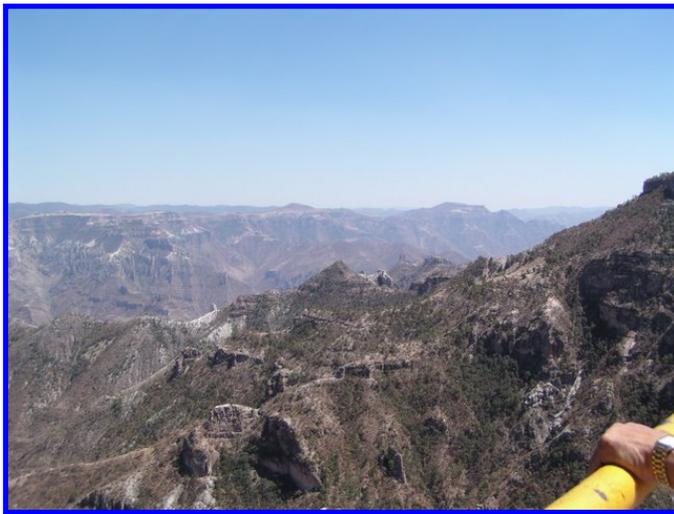
We had fun wondering around town. The last day before our train trip started, we spent relaxing and packing for the 5 day trip Copper Canyon adventure. The RV Park owner had pre-arranged with a taxi driver (Joes Louis) to pick us up at the RV Park and take us to the train depot (75 pesos). Thus at 8:30AM we were

off on our adventure.

[Chepe the Premier \(deluxe\) train](#) arrived from Los Mochis at 9:00AM, once on board we departed. It was to be a 5- 6 hour train ride up into the Sierra Madre Mountains. It would make several stops along the way and go through 80 tunnels and over several bridges. The train never goes over 30 miles per hour. At one stop, Divisadero, we were allowed to get off the train for 20 minutes.







This stop was filled with gift/souvenir/food vendors and one of the most spectacular views of Copper Canyon. On the train we ate lunch in the dining car but very hot (no AC), which was reasonably priced and quite good. We spent some time in the club car enjoying our favorite beverages, but mostly we sat in our seats and watched the scenery go by, that is except Pat. Pat discovered that you could stand in the hallways between the cars and poke your head outside and take pictures, whoopee! So I spent considerable amounts of time taking pictures and video and breathing in diesel fumes!

We reached our destination, (which is high in the mountains and has log homes) of Creel, around 4:30PM. We had reservations at [the Best Western Hotel](#) (\$65US(off season)/night/double occupancy) and there was a bus waiting to pick us up. During check in the hotels computers were down and they had to use the old credit card swipe routine, however during that process Kathy's credit card got jammed and broke! (This proved to our advantage two days from now.) This was an expensive place so we shared a room with Tom & Kathy. It was a very nice room with two queen-sized beds and cable TV. We walked around town and then went to dinner at the hotel. During dinner I made some inquires to the waiter about a local artisan I had meet in Mazatlan. After dinner Kathy made arrangements with the hotel for a driving tour to the bottom of the canyon to Batopilas, (2500 pesos + lunch boxes) a very old silver mining town 5200 feet down into the canyon. Then we wandered into the coffee shop on the corner to discover that the artist I was looking for was running the place and doing his silver work there too! We visited for a while and ended up ordering hand made silver rings for the four of us, to be picked up Friday when we would return from Batopilas. The rest of the evening we wondered the

streets and turned in early.

At 8:00 we meet our tour guide Jose and headed out. It is 140 kilometers or 5 hours to the bottom, with 75 on paved road and 65 on a “one-lane” dirt road. We made a couple of stops along the way, one was at a beautiful lake, and another a stone that looked like an elephant and another stone that looked like a turtle. We stopped a couple of overlooks for pictures and once on the dirt road we made one stop to eat our box lunches we had gotten from the hotel before leaving. The spot we stopped at was only a wide area in the road with a 2000-foot drop off to the floor of the canyon.





There are no guardrails on this road and it was a little nerve racking at times but our driver took it very slow and we had no trouble reaching the bottom or getting around the few cars that passed us in route! We were fortunate to meet two Tarahumara men and one young girl in their bright native dress walking up the road. Our guide stopped to chat and gave them part of his lunch. We arrived at our hotel in Batopilas by 2:30PM. On the way into town we ask our driver about taking a tour later out to the “Lost” cathedral. We went past a local tour driver, Jose stopped to make the arrangements, (300 pesos/person) providing the group that had the 4:30 tour didn’t mind us tagging along. All was set and Jose went to our hotel. It was the same one he’d be staying at so he could take us back out the next day. [Hotel Juanita’s](#) turned out to be a simple but very nice hotel with large rooms and queen sized beds, (350 pesos/room/night). Kathy and Susan had made these arrangements by phone, while in El Fuerte so you never know what you’ll get! We got checked in and took showers and then it was time to go on our next tour.

Artio showed up, mostly on time, with the other group “comfortably” seated in the back of his pickup, on two old car seats covered with tattered Mexican blankets, which were being used as benches. He stopped his truck to lets us get in and find our seats. However the truck wouldn’t start and we had to get out and push the truck to jump start it, once going we all got back in and seated then it died again, so out we all jump, pushed again and this time it stayed running with everyone back in and seated “comfortably”. Within 300 yards of our departure the road turned from a bumpy cobble stone road into a “one-lane” dirt road and remained this way for the next 7 miles. Whoopee! Fortunately there was a woman that spoke English, because everyone else in the tour group didn’t, so through her we got to know everyone else and a little about them and

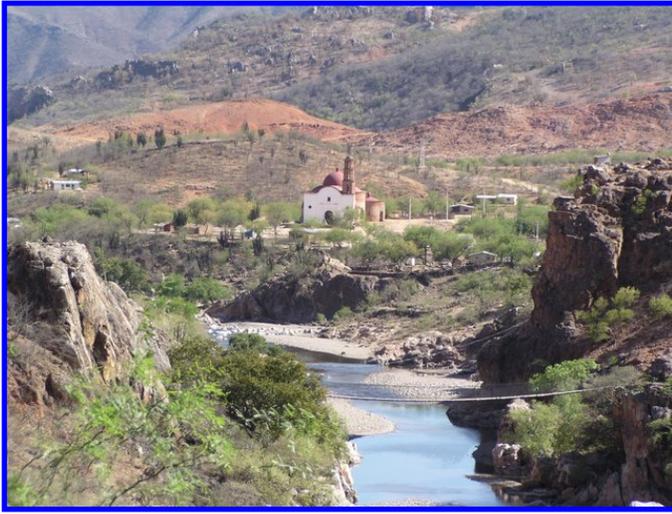
were getting out of the truck to see the church and a choir broke with all the penned cows joining in to serenade us. We were able to walk around the building and the tour guide had a key to let us into the church. Once inside he proceeded to tell us the history of the area and the church. This was translated to us by our friendly tourist woman, whom without we would have missed a lot! The church was built in the 1600's and flourished for a while, until silver was discovered in Batopilas and the towns' folks moved there sort of leaving this church abandoned. It is still used now for special occasions. Upon leaving the church a young girl about seven with light blue eyes chatted with one of the other passengers. That passenger told us when we left that she is a "healer" and recently healed a visitor's hand, which had a broken bone. After the church visit we visited an Indian village, where we saw a native dance performed and then to a very high overlook, before heading back to town. We almost made it back to town without any further problems, when at about 300 yards from the cobblestone road the right front tire blew out. Arturo was not concerned and drove to the local cantina where we pushed it out of the way. We walked the remainder of the way to our hotel!

We went out to dinner at a local bar that Jose had recommended and listen to a band that was playing. Artio, our local tour driver, was one of the band members! They were quit load and we moved outside for our dinner. Jose showed up later after playing soccer and we invited him to have dinner with us. After that we wondered around town. As we left the cantina Artio was changing his blown tire.





they us. We stopped at a viewpoint about a mile away from the cathedral, this was spectacular as the church is located in a valley and is the most prominent building in the area.



Once everyone had taken their pictures we moved on to park next to an animal pen next to the church grounds. A roving cow walked up to greet us while we



Jose showed us a place we could get breakfast early in the morning, so we made reservations and headed back to our hotel for the evening. Kathy had brought her camera and was taking lots of shots, one of four local dogs sprawled out front of teinda (store), and the ornately decorated plaza benches and the gargled topped light posts around the plaza. Mexicans sure think of different ways to decorate their environments!

We were up bright and early the next day to head up and out of the canyon. Of course that meant driving on that road again. We made it without any problems and stopped at a nice overlook which allowed Susan & Kathy to do some more shopping. You see at every overlook/tourist spot there is always at least one native Indian woman selling their wares. Tom checked out the rock formations and I shot pictures.



At about this point, we hit a goat. Susan was yelling "goat, goat, goat" and then wham! Joel was pretty upset as he said he had never hit anything. The good news is that the goat no sooner came to a stop than it was promptly scooped up by a family in a nearby truck and was probably on a spit by dinner. As we neared town we ask Jose if he knew a driver that could take us to our last hotel and see the viewpoints along the way. So we stopped at that driver's home

(Sam) and made those arrangements (800 pesos for all of us) before returning to the hotel. When we got back to the Best Western, Kathy went to check in and get our single room, when she came out she had a big smile on her face, she sang out “we’ve been upgraded”! She marched over to a door and up some stairs to a huge apartment type room. There were three bedrooms, lounge area, a kitchen and an eating area. The walls were covered with knotty pine wood. This was at the same rate as a single room! It seems that the hotel was trying to make up for the broken credit card and gave us a \$40 breakfast credit to boot. Whoopee!!!

After we settled in and had showers we toured around town. We shopped some, had some late lunch/early dinner and visited the local museums. Unfortunately during the second museum visit the local power went out and stayed out for a while so we couldn’t finish that museum tour. We wandered around some more (shopping) and worked our way back to the hotel. We stopped by the coffee shop to check on our rings. Louis was just sizing them and had each of us try ours on, which we did while we had some coffee. He said to come back at 8:00 and the rings would be done. By the way each ring bears the Tarahumar indian signs of the wind and water (The sign of sailor's). The colors of the stones represent the colors of our boats. (Blue & Green)

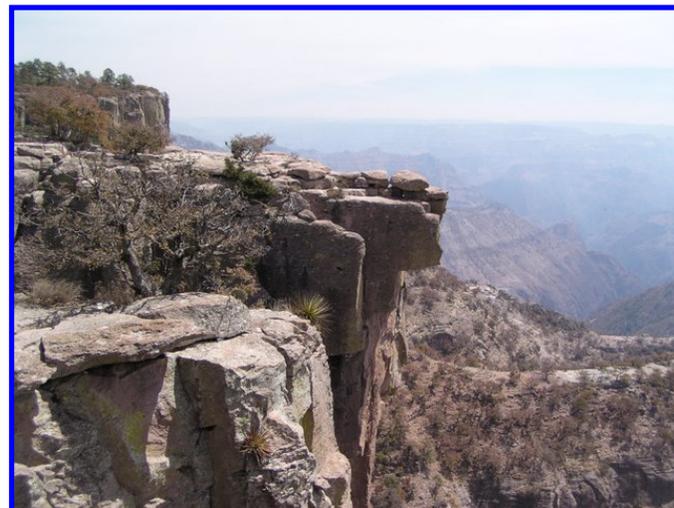
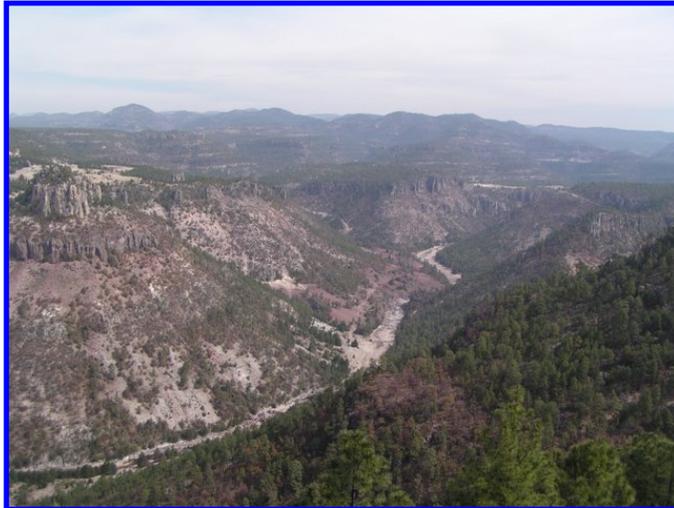




We went back to the room and started to pack for the next days adventure. At 8:00 we returned and Louis was just finishing our rings. While we were waiting Susan & Kathy were looking at his other jewelry that was on display and decided to buy 2 bracelets that would match their new rings. Tom & I didn't need any more jewelry or coffee! We had a nice visit with him and his wife Ana while he finished up each ring. Once they were done we stood around for a group photo and then retired to our palatial rooms.

We had a leisurely morning because our tour was only going to take 3 hours and we couldn't check into the next hotel until 1:00PM. So we had some breakfast at the Hotel, finished our packing and were waiting outside when the driver and Jose showed up. Jose had decided to tag along for the experience and for a business deal he wanted us to do. It turned out that a previous customer had given him a tip of some train tickets and he wanted to sell them to us. We said that if the train conductor ok'd the tickets as valid we'd buy them from him. So off we went on our driving tour.

We stopped at scenic overlook of horseshoe river bend type canyon. This was a spectacular view of the canyon, with no other tourists, just our guides and the native Indians with baskets to sell. We drove past the fertility rock, (need we say any more) and stopped at Divisadero for more great canyon views and more shopping. We moved on to the balancing rock overlook. With more great views and Indians selling lots of different things.

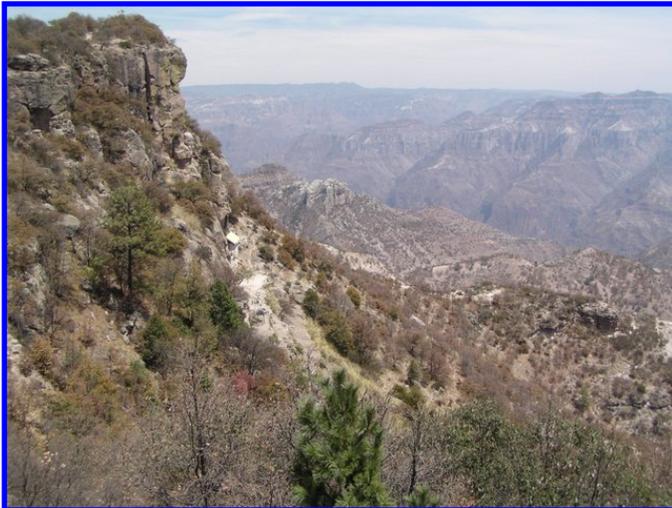


Lastly they dropped us off at the hotel. [The Hotel Posada Barrancas Mirador](#) is a five star hotel hanging on the edge of the copper canyon. The place was expensive, however it did include 3 meals in 24 hours, which helped to defray the high cost of the room. (\$244US/night) Its main draw was the fact that we could sit and appreciate the canyon at our leisure and rest up from the rushing around we had just done.



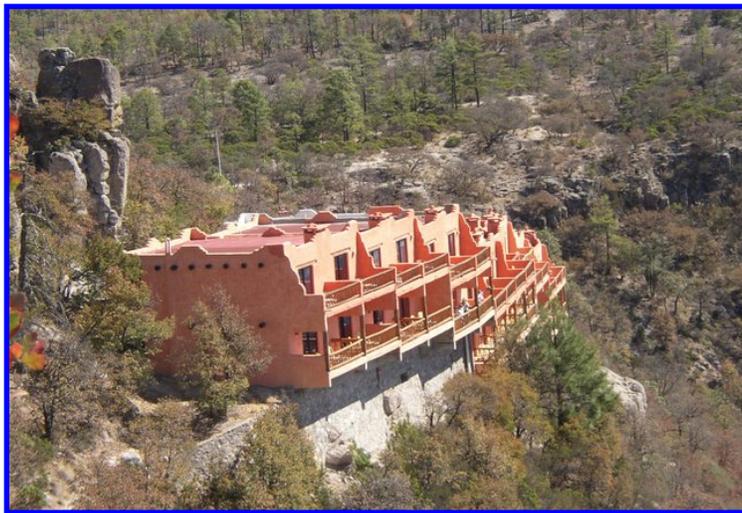
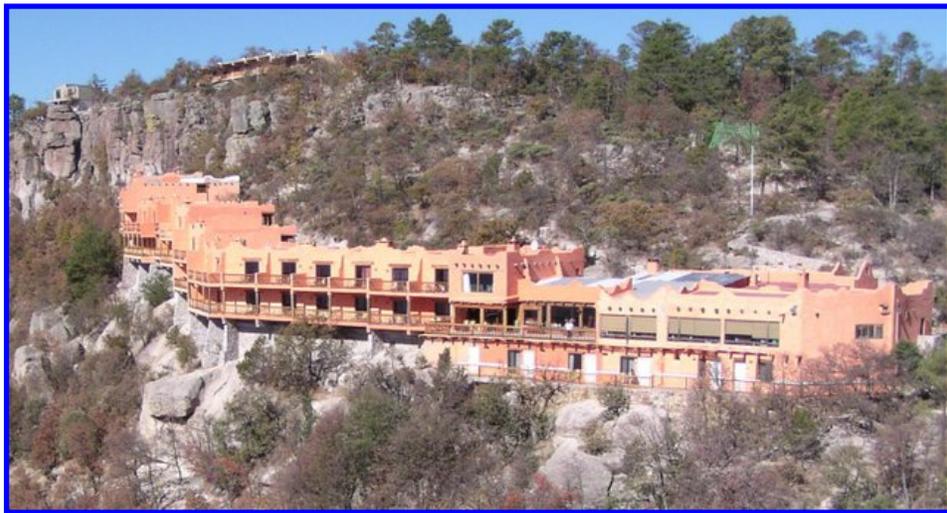


Our group was a little concerned about the cost, however this melted away after our black bass lunch and some time spent on our deck over looking the canyon. So for the remainder of the day we enjoyed the view and the hotel accommodations and meals.





The next day we had breakfast, packed up for our train trip back to El Fuerte and did some hiking around on the outside of the hotel grounds. Upon leaving all agreed that it was certainly worth at least one nights visit!





Our tour guides meet us at the hotel before leaving for the train and then waited with us at the train depot for the train to arrive. Once it arrived they and Kathy spoke with the conductor and he assured us the tickets were good so we paid Jose the cost from our train stop, at Barrancas Posada, to El Fuerte (1455 pesos for all of us). We boarded the train and off we went on the slow winding train ride down the mountain to El Fuerte. We all did the same things, as we had done on way up. Pat and Kathy were busy taking pictures. Except for two incidents that occurred on the way down that didn't on the way up. The first was the train stopping for what appeared to be a dead person lying close to the train. Conductors and police (yes the train had them on board both ways) got off the train to check the person out. A second person appeared from behind a big rock and told the train people that indeed the person was dead, dead drunk! So the train moved on. The second thing that happened was that the train slowed down for quite a while. As we approached a certain stretch we noticed that the area was on fire. Perhaps a controlled fire since there was at least one person working the area. Then a large tree went past the windows outside that had fallen and was close enough to the tracks as to scrap along the side of train as we past that spot. After that, all was well and we wound down from our trip as the train wound through the lovely country side and got closer to El Fuerte.

When we got to El Fuerte our prearranged taxi driver (Joes Louis) was waiting for us and we were whisked away to the RV (75 pesos). We settled in for the night and the next day we left.

[View Our entire album](#)

We got up early and made the RV ship shape to bounce down the roadway and

left El Fuerte around 9:00AM. We headed to San Carlos and got in around 2:00PM. Since we were behind in our trip schedule we decided to only spend one night here and to push on to Bahia Kino where we could spend a couple of days and thought that the shelling would be good. However when we got to Bahia Kino our favorite RV Park was closed to transient overnights and the RV park we ended up at was ok but it had some drawbacks that we could have lived with had the shelling been good, but it wasn't any good! So we left the next day and crossed the US boarder later in the afternoon without trouble. Our Mexican adventure was over for 2006 and our USA adventures were just starting. We pressed on to Green Valley to visit friends.

#### **4. Log Entry: 4/25/2006 - 5/13/2006 USA Adventures**

In Green valley we stopped at our friends Mike and Sheryl's for a quick visit. When we left here Tom and Kathy went their separate ways. Once again it was sad to see them go, however we had our own plans too and had to get going. So off we went for another quick visit with Ed and Randy in Whetstone, which is SE of Tucson. Then it was back to Tucson to the RV park where we had been before leaving for Mexico. We had left our car there and we waited to catch our breaths again, visit our friends some more, so we stayed there two days.

On May 1<sup>st</sup> we left and went directly to Flagstaff. We had to get some altitude to get out of the heat that was already building around Phoenix. We only spent one night there but we both said that sometime we needed to spend more time in this area it is so beautiful. We were feeling the pressure to keep moving as we had plane tickets from the Twin Cities to Pennsylvania on May 13th! We reached Gouldings RV Park in Monument Valley by mid-afternoon, once settled we took the car and drove over to the Navajo Monument Valley park.



At the park we found we could drive ourselves around the various monuments so that's what we did for nearly 3 hours. There is a 22 mile drive on a dirt road that takes you out near and around most of the free standing monoliths that comprise the "monuments". These rise up from the valley floor almost vertically for hundreds if not thousands of feet. We had a lot of fun driving around seeing the sights, taking pictures and video. We even ran across some range cows trying to find dinner. We hated to finally call it a day, as it seemed that around each corner there was something beautiful to take a picture of or marvel at and the shadows were playing their trick too! We could only spend this afternoon there, as we wanted to spend more time in Moab, Utah. So the next day we departed for Moab. We had researched a state park along the way that sounded interesting. [Edge of the Cedars](#). This park is really an archeology dig of an Anasazi pueblo community. This proved to be most interesting stop and well worth a short detour. We resumed our trek to Moah.

[View The Edge of Cedars album](#)

[View Monument Valey album](#)

Has it happens we had reservations at one park one 2 of the 3 nights we wanted to stay, so we had to find a place for the third night. The place we found [Riverside Oasis](#) we liked better and they could take us for all three nights, we canceled the reservations at the other place. We toured around town and had some dinner at a fine Mexican restaurant.

The RV park had some brochures about a jet boat ride on the Colorado River. ([Canyonlands By Day or Night](#)) We decided to take a boat ride and to do it first thing in the morning at 8:00AM. This was an extreme amount of fun for us since we hardly ever do anything like this, as it was a pretty expensive attraction. We were able to sit back and watch or in my case video the boat zooming along at 35 miles per hour and blasting down the river through deep gorges that lined the rivers sides. We traveled down river 32 miles before turning around to head back. Our driver would stop now and then to inform us of what we were passing. At one of these stops he pointed up to an overlook several thousand feet above us called Dead Horse State park lookout. (Later we'd visit it) Another time he pointed to a flat cliff area and said that that was were the car in the movie Thelma and Louise went off. He explained how it was done, and how the car was retrieved from the river. We made a stop at a spot where boats could be launched. We could disembark and walk around and use a "rustic" rest room. There were several very large and smaller rafts taking off for the run through the Grand Canyon down stream 30 – 40 miles. At another stop we disembarked again to visit an area that had petrified wood just lying around. We had a great time on this boat ride. We got back at noon so we went back to the RV and had lunch and a rest.

Later in the afternoon we headed out to see Arches National Park. This park is located only a couple of minutes north of our RV park. It is also a driving tour type park. We spent several hours driving around and visiting the different rock formations and arches.



We saw the four primary arches, the balancing rock, the petrified sand dunes and the “Wall Street” formations. Each of these required some driving between them and hiking to appreciate the sight fully. The elevations here are 7000+ feet, so it didn’t take long before we were tired out and hot. By 5:00PM we headed to the RV. We’ll cover the remainder of the park another time!

## [View The Arches album](#)

The next day we had allocated to see Dead Horse State Park and Canyon Lands National Park. These parks were 20 – 30 miles outside of town and we needed most of the day get there and back and to see them. We left the RV at 9:00AM. The first park you come to is Dead Horse State Park. No one is sure how the butte upon which are located the canyon viewpoints got its name. However the butte was an area that was used by cowboys to corral their horses. The view from the visitors' center was great but the view from the actual viewpoints (seen from the river boat trip) took you breath away!





You can definitely see for miles and miles straight out and down. Your vista includes snow-capped mountain ranges, high plateaus, deep gorges and the Colorado River. There is one viewpoint where I swear you are on the edge of a cliff that goes down at least a thousand feet. What a view! We were shoo'd off the viewpoint by an approaching rainstorm. So we drove onto Canyonlands National Park.

Canyonlands National Park has 3 main viewpoint areas with several stopping places along the way. We went to 2 on them, which were: the Grand View Overlook and the Green River Overlook. We went to two overlooks which took care of 80% of the viewing potential in the park, so we headed home. The two view points included more of the same fantastic views (snow-capped mountain ranges, high plateaus, deep gorges and the Colorado River) as Dead Horse State park but with the added features of entire canyons seeming to sink into the ground on the plateau below you and in front of you and then to spread away from you for miles and miles!



There was less of the Colorado River and its gorges to see, because they were much further away and we couldn't make out the Green River either because of the distance, but nonetheless there was some great viewing in any direction we looked. The reason we didn't go to the third overlook was that it was getting late in the day and we had forgotten to pack a lunch (and water) thinking we could get something in the park, (nada!) And it was getting cloudy, windy and

chilly, we of course didn't bring coats or sweaters, plus it was another 15 mile drive to the third one after the second overlook. We headed home for the day and this ended our Moah adventure. The next day we started to head east through Colorado and then northeast to Minnesota.

[View Dead Horse & Canyonlands album](#)

We quickly drove through Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas and Iowa. In Iowa we made a detour to the Winnebago Factory in Forest City, Iowa. We took a factory tour and had a service manger look at some issues we were having with the motor home. We couldn't stay for the recommended repairs because of our close approaching flight to Pennsylvania. We pressed onward and arrived in the Twin Cities area on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May. We parked the rig in front of my brothers' home and we prepared to fly to Pennsylvania on the 13<sup>th</sup>. We had a short visit with Pat's folks on the 12<sup>th</sup> and flew out on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

## 5. **Log Entry: 5/14/2006 - 7/10/2006 Visiting Family & Friends**

The first visit we had with Pat' folks lasted 1 an ½ days then we caught the plane a to New Holland, Pennsylvania. We landed in Harrisburg and rented a car and drove to New Holland. The next day we turned the car in at the Lancaster airport. We stayed at Susan's mothers home. We visited with her and spent time shopping and visiting some of her friends. Susan had to complete the arrangements for the 90<sup>th</sup> B-day party and look for work, so that keep us busy. We helped around her condo and in her garden. When it came time for the party Anne thought we were going out to brunch before going to her son's home for a small party. She was very surprised when we arrived at the restaurant and went into the basement before going to the dinning area. As they say the rest is history. 40 people were waiting to help Anne celebrate her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party. Everyone at the party had fun. We had to leave to go back to Minnesota in a couple of days. It was as a short visit but a very good time was had.

We arrived back in Minnesota on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May, we celebrated Pat's mother's and Pat's birthday on the 25<sup>th</sup>. We spent the next week and half visiting Pat's parents, parties at his siblings' homes and going up to Pat's sisters lake home over the Memorial Day holiday. During this time Pat's daughter from Portland

had called to announce that she was going to get married on July 7<sup>th</sup>. This was not expected or planned!

We had decided to take a side trip to Forest City, Iowa to have the RV worked on, so on June 4<sup>th</sup> we headed out for the Winnebago Factory. We spent 6 days living on the factory lot at night while they worked on the RV during the day. We meet some interesting folks doing the same thing and spent a small pile of money to get the RV fixed. It was worth it to have the RV fixed correctly! Besides Susan found a replacement (more comfortable) recliner chair for the RV.

A few days after we got back to the Twin Cities we decided to head north to [Ely Minnesota](#) for a visit with some cruising friends that have a lake home up there. They stay there in the summer months and south in the winter. We visited with them over a long weekend. We visited the town of Ely and the town of Virginia, where they were having a Loon festival. We left on Monday and headed to [Duluth](#). This town is located on the western most end of Lake Superior. We spent 2 days here being tourists. Then we headed back to the Twin Cities. We had mad our new arrangements to fly on June 24<sup>th</sup> to the NW for a family visit and the wedding. The day before we left we took Pat's folks to [Stillwater](#) for a lunch at a restaurant along the St. Croix River. This was a nice outing.

[View Duluth Area album](#)

[View Stillwater album](#)

During all this time Susan had been working the work search scene and was hitting pay dirt back at Dell. We flew to Seattle and stayed with Susan's son Steve and his family. While there Susan finished her hiring requirements for going back to Dell. We had a nice visit with his family and we made a day trip to town [La Conner](#). This is a quaint ex-fishing town now a tourist town on a channel between the main land and an island.

[View La Conner album](#)

The week went fast and we found ourselves on a train to Portland. The first few days we stayed with Susan's son Bill and his lady. Bill had a forth of July party that was very nice. Next we rented a car and moved out to Aloha west of Portland. We visited with friends and family while there and celebrated Pat's daughters wedding. Again all to soon it was time to leave by train to Seattle and then the next day by plain to the Twin Cities.

Once back in the Twin Cities we had to prepare to head back to Austin, Texas, but before we left the Twin Cities, Pat had a going away barbeque party for his family. We left on the July 11<sup>th</sup> heading to Kansas City, Missouri.

## 6. **Log Entry: 7/11/2006 - 10/18/2006 Back to Austin For Work & Play**

In Kansas City, Missouri we stopped for 2 nights to visit our friends Tom and Kathy from Awahnee they were there for an extended visit with family. We went to see down town KC, we went to a cool exhibit called the [Steamboat of Arabia](#). This boat was dug up from 40 feet below a cornfield where it had laid for 150 years. We also visited a [World War I Memorial](#) that had a tower with a commanding view of KS. Again it was time to move on our next stop was Mckinney, Texas two days later. We spent 2 nights visiting Pat's daughter. On Susan July 16<sup>th</sup> we headed to Austin and sit up camp back at the same RV Park we had just left in March.

Susan started work at Dell on the next day. What a whirlwind 4 months!

Within 3 weeks we had to take in the RV to fix a hydraulic leak, which turned out to be a hose fitting issue. Then a couple of weeks after that we had to fix the AC as two relays had burned out it they were working overtime in the heat of Texas 100. I guess this year it was time to pay for RV maintenance.

Early one evening we went downtown Austin, to the [Congress Ave bridge](#) to watch the bat colony take to flight, it was impressive to see 1.5+ million Mexican free-tailed bats in wave after wave flying out from under the bridge!

Another day while trying to avoid the heat we drove out to [Wimberly, TX](#). This is a small town that has grown into an artist colony and then of course into a

tourist shopping area. It was a very nice town with friendly people and great shopping area with surely something for everyone. We had a nice lunch and managed to pick up a couple of treasures and had a nice day.

In October some boating friends stopped by the RV Park for a three day visit. We ran around town getting some parts they needed and eating out. They stayed three days and we had a nice visit. We also had some more problems with the RV that required servicing. If it isn't the boat it's the RV giving us grief!

## 7. **Log Entry: 10/19/2006 - 12/20/2006 Back To The Boat Projects**

Pat returned to Mazatlan near the end of October. The first order of business was to get the diesel engine working. This was a priority because the moorage had changed their rates and policy towards multihulls occupying a doublewide slip. It now seems that after 6 years they wanted to start charging me for two slip spaces. I had to move to another spot and do it before November 1st or start paying double! I made it to a new spot with a day to spare. I had a couple of friends with their dingies standing by as tug boats to help nudge me into the new spot. All went well. The bad thing is I am now one dock further from the office/restrooms, ¼ mile and out half way down the new dock. The good thing is I can still pick up the free WiFi connection and because there are no dock fingers beyond me I get a good unblocked breeze each day, even with boats side tied to the main dock.





Once I was relocated I started working on the boat. I needed to finish painting the inside of the boat. First I had to remove the old carpeting and paint under it and then paint around each of the bunk areas. While doing this I completed lots of small tasks like installing the new opening ports in the head and getting the wiring installed for the new ice chest type freezer, playing with the old refrigerator to get it running correctly, installing replacement light fixtures and a new mirror in the head.



My son Patrick, who had crewed with us, came down for a visit in November. By then I was done with the painting and he helped me cut and install new carpeting. We had a great visit and did some sight seeing, eating out and all too soon he was gone back home.



I had wanted to get the deck painted white and new non-skid on the main cabin top before I went back north for Christmas. Of course I discovered some loose old deck material that had to be patched first. Once that was done I could begin putting on the new non-skid and painting the deck. This effort required crawling around while painting in the heat. I took it slowly and did sections during the cooler part of the day and rested or did other little projects. Of course

it required two coats of paint!



By the time I finished the deck it was time to ready the boat for my absence. Since I don't really know when I'll be back, I have to do the whole "putting the boat to bed" thing. I returned to Austin on December 20th. Little did I know that I would not be back until mid February!

# The Adventure Continues in 2007

[Home](#)

[Photos](#)

[The Log](#)

[Links](#)

[Exit](#)

## 2007 Table of Contents

- [1. Log Entry: 2/21/2007 - 3/28/2007 Return to Boat Projects](#)
- [2. Log Entry: 4/5/2007 - 5/17/2007 Almost A Cruising Adventure](#)
- [3. Log Entry: 5/26/2007 - 7/21/2007 Family Visits in the NW](#)
- [4. Log Entry: 7/21/2007 - 10/22/2007 Austin Texas](#)
- [5. Log Entry: 10/22/2007 - 12/31/2007 Back To The Boat Projects](#)

[Return To The Log Index](#)

## 2007 Log Entries

- 1. Log Entry: 2/21/2007 - 3/28/2007 Return to Boat Projects**

Pat wanted to stay in Texas longer than normal this year. His oldest daughter

had given birth to a new grand daughter in mid-January and her Christening was held in mid-February. So Pat didn't returned to the boat until February 21<sup>st</sup>. Work resumed with deck paint touch ups and getting the boat ready to take our intended cruise in April.

One of the left over jobs was to test the water maker system. Before the holidays I had installed 2 new pressure pump heads but hadn't tested the system. Now testing the system doesn't sound to hard except that it hadn't been run in 4 ½ years! I expected there to be problems. Part of running the system involves getting all the air out of all the hoses and various pumps, before pressurizing it to make water. This usually takes 10 minutes! It took six days before I could get all the air out and pressurize the system. Through many trial and error attempts involving replumbing and hose rerouting, I deduced that I had to eliminate 2 three-way values and a water strainer. All were letting air into the system. Once the system came up to pressure I ran it for 4 hours to see if it would work ok. It made good water at a reasonable rate per hour. However the main high-pressure pump was leaking and continued to get worst as my test progressed. I then had to repickle the system before calling it quits, as I needed to store the unit until I could return with the replacement parts in April.

While the water maker testing project was going on a fellow cruiser was coming in to the docks and came to close to my stainless steel dingy davits and caught them with part of his boat. It lifted Perpetua up out of the water, made horrible sounds, heard all around the marina and ended up bending and breaking the davits. My solar panels are also mounted on top of the davits and were ok, however the brackets and tubing used to hold them on had broken.





I was very lucky my dinghy wasn't dangling from the davits or I would have lost it too! The skipper was very apologetic about the incident and luckily he had insurance. I immediately got a hold of my trusted local yacht service provider. We worked out a settlement and received a check for the replacement of all the damaged parts. They were ordered from the USA and within four weeks they arrived and were reinstalled.

I managed to get the onboard diesel fuel tanks filled and all the extra on deck jury jugs filled with gas and diesel. This required several trips, over a couple of days, ferrying the jugs to and from the local fuel dock in the dingy.

Now it was time to put Perpetua back to sleep. This always takes a couple of days and then I returned to Austin on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March.

During this time Susan kept busy with her work at Dell, painting classes and quilt making.

We were glad to be back together again and soon her contract would end! We would then start our next adventure.

## 2. **Log Entry: 4/5/2007 - 5/17/2007 Almost A Cruising Adventure**

When I arrived back, in Austin, Susan had two days left to finish work. We left on April 1<sup>st</sup>! Our first stop was McKinney, Texas, just north of Dallas. Our plan included having a short visit with my daughter, her husband and new baby girl before storing the RV and Car. We flew out to Mazatlan on April 5<sup>th</sup>. We were hoping this would be the start of our long awaited cruising adventure. We had allowed ourselves 9 ½ weeks to have a quick cruise.

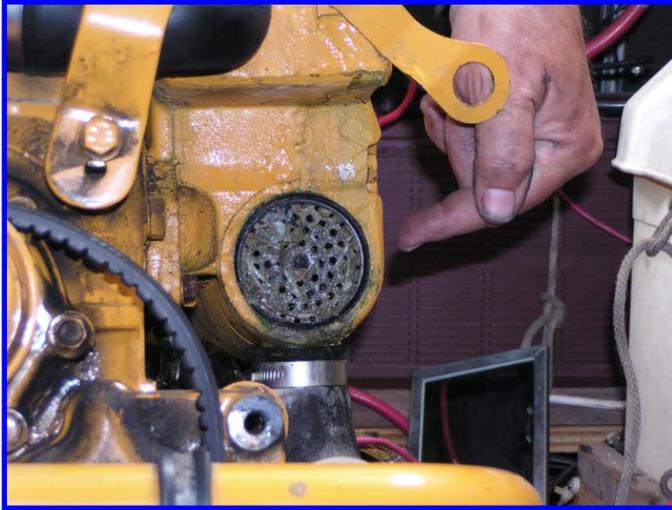
Once in Mazatlan we had to finish the provisioning and take care of a few maintenance items. Top on the list was to get the water maker fixed and working properly. The water maker took 4 days of playing with before it was considered to be working properly. By the end of the first 9 days we were waiting for a weather window to leave. We learned the hard way that you can't just leave when you're ready and expect the weather gods to bless you with good weather for a crossing of the Sea of Cortez. By April 20<sup>th</sup> the weather gods were indicating fair weather for the crossing. We checked out of the marina and departed on the 21<sup>st</sup>, yes we actually left the dock fully intending to go for a cruise.

As we were crossing the bar leading out onto the ocean I increased the throttle to near full speed to give us some extra power as we crossed over. All went well and I left the throttle as is to get us away from the entrance and on our way. The engine is designed to run at full throttle and I had done this in the past with no problem. However after about 30 minutes Susan noticed that the engine overheating light was on, so we immediately stopped the engine. We're now adrift about 1 mile off shore and 3 miles from the marina entrance. Susan, the chief mechanic on board, decided to check the raw water pump impeller. After taking it apart and making sure it was ok she decided to replace it anyway. While trying to put the pump back together she noticed that it was not going together correctly and realized that the pump shaft was dislocated. So she decided to replace the entire pump, we always carry a spare one "just in case". While Susan was busy with the engine Pat got the sails up and was sailing the

boat keeping it off shore. Once the engine was back together, it was started and we ran it slowly at first and then slowly increased its speed. By the time we had it up to 50% power it started overheating again. All this while Susan and I were discussing the merits of continuing on or returning to the marina for repairs. We both concluded that while we could run the engine at low RPM's without it overheating it was darn risky to go on a 7½ week cruise with a known overheating engine. So by about 13:00 or 1:00PM, with the engine still overheating, we decided to turn around and return to the dock. Not to waste a good sailing day we stopped the engine and sailed the 16 miles we'd come out, back to the marina. Sailing is still a lot of fun and helped ease the disappointment we were feeling. We tried to alert the marina of our return and some our friends using our radio. When that didn't work Susan tried her cell phone and got through to our yacht service provider and explained the situation. He contacted the marina and our friends who would form a welcoming committee to catch our mooring lines once back at the marina. We contacted our friends by radio as we entered the channel and were tied up at the dock by around 5:30 PM. What was running through my mind as we returned was the Eagle's Hotel California song but slightly different, "You can check out but you can't leave Mazatlan"!

Our yacht service provider, diesel guru, came over the next morning (On Sunday to boot). We went through the engine's symptoms and our actions. He suggested a course of action and took our broken pump to be repaired. Of course the set of actions we had to do meant taking apart the engine enough to get at the heat exchanger, whatever that was! This took Pat the rest of Sunday to do, in the end I had only damaged a few other parts and did manage to get the exchanger removed. I found the remains of an old impeller that was blocking the flow and a very fouled end of the exchanger. So it needed to be removed entirely and be cleaned. So how do you clean a part that looked like it had been on the bottom of the bay for years? This was to be the chore over the next couple of days, figuring out the procedure and getting the materials needed. What was recommended was a good soaking in muratic acid and a cleaning out the inside of the tubes and around the outside of the tubes, of the heat exchanger. After locating and reading the label on the muratic acid we decided against using it. It would be too dangerous to the environment, and to us so we returned it. With the first procedure gone, the second one was much the same except using vinegar. Using vinegar worked surprising well. It meant we had to soak it for hours then rinse/scrub off the growths then let it soak

some more. We had to find something to clean out the tubes and in between the tubes but in the end it came out very well restored.



Then I had to go and try to find replacement “O” rings and a hose support bracket. This meant a lot running around town, we arranged for transportation with a person familiar with the places to look for the parts. This running around

looking for the parts killed off the rest of the week. The heat exchanger was reassembled and testing started on Saturday. After minor tweaks to fix leaks we ran the engine in gear, at the dock, at  $\frac{3}{4}$  throttle for 2 hours with no overheating. If we could just get our spare raw water pump back from being fixed! During this repair effort it dawned on us that we now were down to a 6  $\frac{1}{2}$  week cruise and we still need to get the pump!

It sure seemed like our window of cruising opportunity was closing rapidly. It would mean a week of traveling each way to get where we wanted to go and then only 2 weeks in the area where we wanted to cruise. All the while looking over our shoulders at the weather and what it was going to do. On Sunday we made a decision to cut our Mexico trip short and return to the USA and start the second phase of our planned adventures early. We changed our flight arrangements, for small fee, to May 17<sup>th</sup>. We also decided to take a mini shake down cruise out to the near by islands and at least enjoy some time away from the dock and at anchor. We had heard that another couple we knew wanted to do the same thing so we buddy boated with them on our mini cruise. The pump arrived on Tuesday and we left on Wednesday for our cruise.

The cruise was most enjoyable and so was the comradeship of our buddy boat. The first anchorage we went to was quite roly so on the second day we up'd anchor and moved to some other islands. This was a good move and the next two days were much nicer at anchor. We went ashore on the island, for a picnic one of the days and visited on another boat that had showed up the second day. We then decided to return to the marina on the 3<sup>rd</sup> morning and begin the process of putting Perpetua to sleep for the summer. Once underway for the marina entrance and the bar crossing I decided to hurry it up and get in quickly as we were only 4 miles away. For the first time in all of this I put the throttle on FULL power. During the testing and the mini cruise I had used as much as  $\frac{3}{4}$  throttle, not FULL. You guessed it the engine overheating light came on just as we were approaching the bar crossing! We slowed down and very gingerly crossed the bar. Once back at the dock we once again consulted our diesel guru. It could be this or this or this .... all of it was going to wait until Pat returned in the fall!

We began washing and storing all sails and various deck equipment, then assembling my spider web of mooring lines I set up when leaving the boat, during the hurricane season. We have developed an extensive checklist for

storing the boat. We were ready to leave with a day to spare and sorrowfully bid fair well to all our boating buddies and left Mazatlan on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

### 3. **Log Entry: 5/26/2007 - 7/21/2007 Family Visits in the NW**

Once back in the USA it was time to get ready to travel to the NW. Susan really wanted to visit her mother before heading out so she made a quick six-day trip. I stayed at my daughters place and visited. When Susan returned we got the RV and car out of storage and stocked up and left for the NW on May 26<sup>th</sup>, Memorial Day weekend!

On the way up to Amarillo our first intended stop an idiot light, light up on the RV dash. Something was not right with the engine. So by the time we actually got to Amarillo we had decided to get it fixed. You guessed it, it was late Saturday afternoon on a holiday weekend and NOTHING was open! Not until Tuesday would possible service places be open. We researched and recommended, which places, would most likely be responsive to travelers and decided on the Chevy dealership, if they worked on RV's?

We also found a near by state park we could visit, [Palo Duro Canyon State Park](#) was an hour and half away. We visited this park on Sunday. It was a very nice park with several picturesque canyons. We drove around all where we could but didn't hike down into the canyons as it was very hot and we didn't come prepared for hiking. Monday we spent packing and repacking and lazing around the RV.

Early Tuesday we called the Chevy place and they did work on Chevy RV engines. We got the RV in as quick as we could, it took several hours to determine that a sensor value had gone bad and replace it. So we went back to the RV Park for a forth night.

Wednesday we got up early and headed to Denver a very long day was a head. We'd decided to find the local Camping World as we needed some stuff and sometimes they will let you park in their lot overnight for free. Everything worked out well during the trip and upon arriving at Camping World before they closed and being allowed to park overnight. However the next morning

while I was checking the RV over, I discovered that one of my rear inside dual tires was flat. No problem that's why I have a tire pump. As I was pumping up the tire it was making funny noises, like a "snap, crackle, popping" sound. As I got close to the full tire pressure it exploded with a sound like a shotgun, including a huge plume of smoke! Susan came rushing out of the RV to see what had happened and if I was ok. Fortunately I had backed away from the RV, as the sounds became more pronounced, so I wasn't hurt. Now we had to find a new tire!

Susan took the car and went to a near by RV dealership, they don't do BIG RV tires but sent her to another truck tire dealership. This place had a used tire exactly the same kind and size as ours that had blown. So off we went to have our tire replaced. We were back on the road by late morning. The rest of the trip to Portland, Oregon went off without any more problems, thank God!

Most of the trip to the NW involves visiting family and friends. We lucked out with places to stay while there as Susan's youngest son had just purchased a home with a driveway large enough for us to park the RV and my son found out we could park on the street in front of his place for week without hassle.

[View the entire trip album](#)

In November of 2006 we purchased a lot on the Washington coast sight unseen. So naturally we had to go out there and check it out. Our good friends Tom and Kathy had bought a lot just down from ours and theirs was already RV ready. We parked at their place for 10 days while we started preparing our lot for RV use. It was a wonderful time being there and working on *our lot*, that once done we could use for as long as we wanted. All it needed was some clearing, a driveway and power and water run onto the property. It is only a mile from the beach on one side and mile to the bay of the other side. Our lot is located on [Long Beach Peninsula, Ocean Park](#), Washington. Then it was time to head back to Portland, as a new grand baby was on the way and we needed to be there!

[View the entire our property album](#)

Susan's youngest son and his lady had a baby boy, yeah! We stayed to help out the new parents, a bit and see friends and family some more. Much more visiting occurred and BBQ's!

All too soon it was time to leave Portland and then head to Seattle and visit Susan's oldest son and his family.

During our visit in Portland, Susan had been in contact with her connections at Dell and by the time we reached Seattle was rehired for another 8 month contract.

We visited in Seattle as long as we could and then headed back to Austin, Texas. We did stay long enough to see Susan's son perform in the [Skagit Valley Highland Games](#).

Also we were there when her son's wife won a new Sea Doo water bike complete with a trailer. Fun times are ahead for their family!

We left on July 16<sup>th</sup> and arrived, in Austin, without incident on July 21<sup>st</sup>. We made a one night visit in Euless, Texas to visit my daughter, as she had moved there since we left. Susan started work on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. We had traveled 5220+ miles since May 26<sup>th</sup>! Not to mention the trip to Mexico!

#### **4. Log Entry: 7/21/2007 - 10/22/2007 Austin Texas**

It was good to get to Austin and catch our breaths after all the traveling and visiting we'd done. But it wasn't over yet. Pat had decided to go to St. Paul, Minnesota and visit his family living in the area. My daughter asked if she could accompany me with her baby and so off we went for a weeks visit in early August.

My daughter had some news too that she again was moving this time to Waco, Texas. Her husband gets moved around some! So they managed to get themselves packed and moved but asked for our help unpacking and storing things in their new home. So that's what we did on Labor Day weekend.

Otherwise Pat's began getting all his boat supplies lined up for his return to Mazatlan in October. Also working on RV projects, updating the web site and picture sites. Susan keeps busy with her work at Dell, and painting classes.

So far we went on excursions to see a [Radio Controlled Airplane](#) exhibition it was fun to watch the flyers and their planes, next we drove back out to [Wimberly, TX](#). This time out our first stop was to see the [Wimberly Glass Works](#) there we watched the owner Tim de Jong create a vase. What a great experience to see glass start as a glowing glob and end up as a beautiful vase! Pat had to have a small (all we could afford) souvenir, a humming bird feeder. Then of course we went on into the towns' tourist shopping area. It was a very nice town with friendly people and great shopping area. We didn't buy anything this time.

We'll spend our free time exploring the Austin area and we're planning a trip to San Antonio. The journey continues and we have two additional grandchildren to enjoy!

Thanks for checking in on our activities!

## 5. **Log Entry: 10/22/2007 - 12/31/2007 Back To The Boat Projects**

Pat arrived in Mazatlan in late October. His first tasks centered around getting the engine checked out regarding the lingering overheating issue, with the goal of getting Perpetua to the boat yard for bottom paint renewal and the repair of any issues. There are not to many boat yards that can handle hauling out trimarans fortunately there are two in Mazatlan but only one has a travel lift big enough to haul her out.

Pat contacted Rick, my trusty yacht service provider to come over to inspect the engine for any problems that needed to be addressed before going into the yard. He came with his new heat sensing gun and we ran the engine for quit some time while he took heat readings. He concluded that the injector nozzles were overheating and most likely needed to be cleaned and serviced. However this would not delay using the engine to get the yard. So with most every thing else ready to go Pat had Rick schedule the yard for my haul out.

The haul out went off without a hitch. I lined up some crew to go along to handle lines for both the going and coming back from the yard. It's about a 2.5 hour ride or 12 miles each way to the yard, so it was real nice to have some

company along.





The yard stay lasted 8 days while some scheduled work and new issues were fixed. The bottom got a new paint job and finally she was ready to splash again. While the boat was in the yard Pat stayed on a friend's boat that made it very nice to still be at the marina with his friends.

Once back to the marina the first big task was to replace the final two plastic

opening ports in the aft cabin. This effort took several days and created quite a bit of dust in the aft cabin.



However once the new ports were in and the areas around them painted and the aft cabin cleaned up it was real nice to have the new ports in place and that job done.

The next project wasn't on Pats list. It showed up with a high priority when one day during lunch Pat noticed that the base of a support pole for the awning looked like it was sinking into the deck! You guessed it "DRY ROT"! Fortunately it wasn't a large area of contaminated wood. Just 7"x 12" had to be cut out before finding good wood. The fixing took several days to complete, before Pat could continue with scheduled projects. However Pat was glad he'd noticed this issue before it had a chance to get worse.





The next project to be done had also jumped to the head of the list. When last spring Pat had noticed some “DRY ROT” in the propane locker compartment doorframe. This wasn’t a big job put it did require some “scrounging” around

the marina to find a piece of wood that was wide enough to fit the area to be replace. Pat had already checked out the scrap pieces on the boat and none were the right width. It took some snooping around the area but eventually Pat found a nice piece of Mexican cedar the right size. Once the “supplies” were available it didn't take long to make the necessary repairs.

Pat worked on some smaller projects during this time as well. New parts had to be installed in the toilet, the refrigerator cooling pump was leaking like a sieve and the propane snifter sensor was going off for hours at a time. The refrigerator problem was finally resolved when the cooling condenser took a 24 hour soak in vinegar, it apparently was clogged with something which broke loose once the vinegar had weakened it. The pump worked fine after that, must have been a backpressure causing the pump to leak. The propane sensor never did get fixed; it's slated for replacement after a couple of emails with the manufacturer.

Pat discovered that an electrical fixture on the deck near the base of the main mast have been knocked out of its hole in the deck sometime over the summer. (No idea how that had happened) This had let copious amounts of rainwater into the boat. Pat had to reinstall the fitting and spend a couple of hours getting the water out of the overhead panels and the bilges.

Finally it was time to get back to the real project list. The next item that could be tackled before Pat had to return for the holidays was to begin to refurbish the engine room hatch cover. Now this was an item that had been on the list for almost ten years, so this was monumental to be actually beginning this effort. The wooden support hatch backbone had to be removed, repaired and reattached. The bottom side of the cover had to be sanded, coated with resin and new gaskets installed.



These repairs had to be done before the outside can be refurbished. Once the outside was completed then new soundproofing can be installed on the bottom side. After that the outside can be repainted. Pat managed to get the first two steps done and then it was time to put Perpetua to sleep until Pat returned after the holidays.

[View the entire Fall Boat Projects album](#)

During this same period Susan worked at Dell and remotely organized work on our Washington coast lot to remove the trees, level the lot, the laying down a gravel driveway, getting the power, water and septic hooked up. Then getting a landscaper to plant new trees around the edges of the lot.

[View the entire The Lot Clearing album](#)

On new years weekend we took our RV down to San Antonio. Over our extended weekend we went to [SeaWorld San Antonio](#), the downtown [River Walk](#) area, the 750 foot [Tower of the Americas](#) and followed the Mission trail to see the [Alamo](#) and 4 other [Spanish Missions](#).

[View the entire San Antonio River Walk & Missions album](#)

[View the entire Sea World album](#)

So that's how 2007 ended for Perpetua and her crew. Lots of work, not much actual use but there was some use and that was fun! The lot saw some major improvements. Then Pat and Susan relaxed and enjoyed the holidays with family and a mini vacation.



Good Bye From Perpetua's Crew

Thanks For Following Our Adventure Logs

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Note: Our email address requires the @ sign, not included here to minimize spamming.

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# The Adventure Continues in 2008

[Home](#)

[Photos](#)

[The Log](#)

[Links](#)

[Exit](#)

## 2008 Table of Contents

- [1. Log Entry: 2/11/2008 – 4/02/2008 Return to Boat Projects](#)
- [2. Log Entry: 4/2008 - 5/2008 Cruising To the North West](#)
- [3. Log Entry: 5/13/2008 – 11/4/2008 Family Visits in the NW And Texas](#)
- [4. Log Entry: 11/4/2008 – 12/31/2008 Our Mexico Adventure Resumes](#)

[Return To The Log Index](#)

## 2008 Log Entries

### 1. Log Entry: 2/11/2008 – 4/02/2008 Return to Boat Projects

Pat stayed in Texas longer than normal this year. His oldest daughter's new baby was turning one in January. So Pat didn't returned to the boat until February 11<sup>th</sup>. The two top priorities were to take a shake down cruise to test

the rebuilt injectors and installing a new propane sensor/solenoid switch. There were new parts to be installed on the engine and get the boat's bottom cleaned. Also Pat was waiting for our friends Tom and Kathy on *Ahwahnee* to arrive to be part of his crew. In the mean time work resumed with installing the new propane sniffer sensor/solenoid switch, without this happening there would be no propane for cooking and dish washing. Once this was done the engine parts were installed and the engine tested at the dock.

While rinsing off the forward part of the deck Pat noticed that the hose had gotten caught up on a toggle latch on the deck used to prevent the wet locker hatch from coming open. The unusual part of this was that the toggle appeared to be coming up through the deck. Upon closer investigation it was discovered that in fact this was the case because of ["DRY ROT"](#). (β Thought you'd like to see the definition of Dry Rot.)





Once again other projects were preempted by a case of “DRY ROT”. Fortunately Pat had caught this issue way before it had gotten out of hand. The actual bad wood was only about a 3” square around where the bolt had been installed through the deck to secure the toggle. Of course this realization caused a light bulb to go on in Pat’s head. Could there be other problems as of yet undiscovered because there were three other toggles doing similar tasks? Upon further inspection this proved not to be the case around the other bolt holes. Some degradation had occurred on a couple of the holes but generally they were ok. While the primary repair work progressed on the “DRY ROT” area, Pat decided to drill out and enlarge the other bolt holes. Once that was done these holes were filled in with resin and filler and then predrilled for the bolts. That way th bolts could leak water but that will not affect the surrounding wood because they were drilled through resin. The “DRY ROT” area and the PM (Preventative Maintenance (Wow when does this ever happen?)) projects were completed at the same time.

While on board our vessels most of the cruisers’ leave their VHF radios turned on to a specific hailing channel. This is because it is our main source of communication between boats within the marinas and the local area (10 - 25 miles).

One Sunday morning I heard *Perpetua* hailed on the radio. This turned out to be an invitation to visit some Portland friends who were down on a vacation staying in a near by condo. Ed and Marianne from a boat named *Rascal* and visiting them were Ed and Sara off of *Hokuloa* also from Portland and our current commodore of our yacht club back in Portland, the Suavie Island Yacht Club. It was truly unexpected and Pat had fun visiting with them, which turned

into an all day affair, including a dinner out. Ed and Sara were returning to Portland in a day or two, but Ed and Marianne were staying until the end of February. They were all waiting for Ahwahnee to arrive to welcome them back to Mazatlan.

Ed and Sara had to go home before *Ahwahnee* arrived. Once *Ahwahnee* did arrive, the date was chosen for the shake down cruise. Pat had extended an invitation to Ed and Marianne to go along too. Pat had previously invited John and Marilyn from the boat *Cracker Box* to join our cruise.

On the appointed Saturday all was ready and all the crew had shown up on time, however as we were about to pull out of the slip, a dingy approached us, this turned out to Bub and Faye from Oregon's, Bay City. They're on a boat by the name of *Okoke Chak Chak*. These spry folks, 82 and 79 respectfully, were out visiting folks. So naturally they got invited along for the cruise. *Perpetua* was ready and had a full crew on board of 9. We got underway as soon as the new guests were boarded. It was a lovely day with the sea swell running about 3 –5 feet, 5 - 10 MPH wind breezes and only a insignificant wind chop on the seas surface. The sun was out as we steamed north up the coast. Pat was supposed to travel at a certain engine RPM's for about an hour and then give it full throttle for about 5 minutes. Having accomplished the required time limit Pat put the peddle to the metal as they say. Unfortunately within a couple of minutes the engine overheating alarm light sprang to life (#%!!&# RATS #%\$! @!# + other Navy words). Pat slowed the engine down and after a couple of more minutes the alarm light went out. Pat repeated this procedure several times during the remaining cruise with the same results. So, it's back to the drawing board on the engine overheating issue.

[View the entire Spring Activity album](#)

However the day was not a total wash out as the crew shared Pat's disappointment and provided words of encouragement and advice. We turned around and cruised south past the marina lagoon entrance and proceeded to Deer Island where we dropped the anchor. Kathy made up some sandwiches for our lunch, along with chips and cookies. We stayed for about an hour and half, partly to wait out some **FOG** that had rolled in while anchored. (What was that all about?) It cleared up enough by 1:30PM for us to return plus the crew was getting a bit "cranky" because of the sun, heat and no breeze behind the island.

(The “Big Top”, *Perpetua*’s awning was down for the cruise and the beach umbrella didn’t cut it!) Pat upped the anchor, got underway and returned to the dock without incident. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves despite the discomforts. Pat thoroughly enjoyed the company and especially the camaraderie! Over all it was a great cruise despite the disappointing overheating issue.

Back to the boat projects on Monday, Pat had to finish up the toggle project and move onto the next effort. The painting of the inside of the pilot house was on the list and resuming work on the engine hatch cover as well as starting to deal with the engine overheating issue.

The toggle project wrapped up quickly with just some final painting around the areas and reassembly of the toggles.

Next the inside of the pilot house progressed slowly as Pat filled in dings and patched up a hole in the wall from a defunct instrument. Work on the hatch cover also progressed slowly in between the work on the pilothouse. Finally the pilothouse was ready to be painted. This required moving stuff out of the areas being painted and removing wires that were in the way. The painting was all consuming and the work on the hatch cover stopped. The pilothouse required two coats of paint to get good coverage. It took 6 days to apply the two coats of paint and when completed it was time to work on the engine, as the mechanics were available.

[View the entire Boat Spring Projects album](#)

The engine parts were replaced and a new temperature gauge was installed. All told it took them two days and then I had the work inspected and ran a test. The engine was warmed up for 15 minutes and then run in gear at the dock for 45 minutes at almost and for a while at full throttle. No new problems were noted and no overheating occurred during this test, so the next step is another shake down cruise out on the ocean. That had to wait, as did the hatch cover work, as now it was time to put *Perpetua* back to sleep. This always takes several days and then I returned to Austin on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April.

During this time Susan was real busy with her work at Dell, painting classes, pottery classes and quilt making.

Once again we were glad to be back together again and soon her latest contract would end! We would then start our next adventure of cruising to the NW while at a much reduced pace. Our intention is to visit friends and family in Arizona and California. We plan to see some sites a long the way as well.

## 2. **Log Entry: 4/2008 - 5/2008 Cruising To the North West**

When Pat arrived back to Austin, Susan had 1 week left to finish work. Pat spent his time by getting the RV serviced and a doctor's visit. Pat also washed and waxed the RV and generally made everything ready to go.

At long last it was time to leave on April 13<sup>th</sup>. The first leg was to actually go south to Corpus Christi for a three day rest and visit with Pat's daughter, her husband and their little girl. We stayed at an RV park on Mustang Island near Port Aransas within walking distance to the beach. The beach won a whole day to itself and the Texas State Aquarium won a day too! Alas the visit was over all to soon and it was time to go our separate ways. Fun was had by all!

We headed west towards Arizona. We had several people to visit along the way. The first was in Sunsites. We spent 2 days visiting with an old cruising buddy from Portland who has resettled in Arizona. Next was another stop in Whetstone, to visit with old buddies from the same marina, where we had kept Perpetua and who had also resettled in Arizona after 9 years of cruising. We then moved onto Tucson for yet more visiting. Here we saw 3 couples. Some are past cruisers and some are on a hiatus for health and financial reasons. We had a surprise visit from a friend from Mazatlan who had come up to Tucson for an appointment and was staying with one of the couples. This was our longest visit yet. It was nice to see old friends and stop moving for a few days. We even had time to go to the [Desert Museum](#).

[View the entire Desert Museum album](#)

Alas, it was time to move on this time north to Mesa near Phoenix. We stayed in Mesa a couple of days visiting. Our friend has a seasonal job driving a tour boat, [The Desert Belle](#) on a near by [Saguaro Lake](#). We were able to go out with

him on a cruise and see the surrounding canyons and wild life, we even saw wild horned sheep! On another day we went on a drive through the country to [Tortilla Flats](#), an old stagecoach stop and mining town and had a great lunch at the only restaurant and Pat tried some Prickly Pear Cactus Ice Cream for desert. This time it was our friends and us who it was time for the departures. They went south to San Carlos, Mexico and we headed west to California.

We had some time to kill before our next reservations where available so we stopped in Blythe California for a couple of days rest. Blythe is located on the Colorado River and the Arizona border. It is a popular area for water activities. The RV Park was a beehive of activity. We relaxed, swam in the pool and went for walks. Our next destination was a place both Susan and Pat had always wanted to see, [Yosemite National Park](#). We spent two full days wondering the park and if we weren't on a schedule we could've stayed a week. As it was we had to leave in order to get our jaws off the ground, after experiencing the parks many spectacular sites! There were things we didn't get to see, so that way we'll have to go back another time.





[View the entire Yosemite NP album](#)

Next we moved onto Pat's brothers place, located east of Stockton, in Mokelumne Hill. On the way there we had to pass through an area where the highway was narrow many ups and downs, back and forth switchbacks and steep inclines. This lasted for about 20 miles! When we reach the next little town we could smell our breaks, they were weak when being used and an idiot light had come on. We sought help at a couple of places and ended up at an RV service center. They did a cursory check of the breaks and in the process the breaks had cooled down too. They recommended going to a dealer that service our kind of chassis. We limped to Pats brothers place without incident. The next day we went into near by Lodi and had the breaks thoroughly checked out and the idiot light sensor replaced. All was working OK, Yeah! The next day we took a drive to [Calaveras Big Tree State Park](#). This is a park, which has a grove of Giant Sequoia and Redwoods. There is a 1+ mile walk through and

around these majestic, ancient, goliath trees. One tree was 96' in circumference! Its stump was used as a dance hall and later as a restaurant! These trees were huge!

[View the entire Big Tree State Park album](#)

Alas the visit was over and it time for us to make our final push to Portland. We arrived in Portland on May 13<sup>th</sup>. Let the family and friends visiting begin!

### 3. **Log Entry: 5/13/2008 – 11/4/2008 Family Visits in the NW And Texas**

Once back in the NW it was time to visit family and friends. Also it was time to go to our property in Long Beach and see all the progress we had done while we were absent and to start making it our own place.

As a reminder our lot is located on [Long Beach Peninsula](#), and outside of [Ocean Park, Washington](#).

Before we left last summer we had made arrangements to have the lot cleared of tress and leveled. The utilities installed and the septic system readied for RV use. Next we hired a landscaper to plant some trees around the parameter of the lot and to plant grass in the spring. So we were excited about getting to the lot and seeing all the improvements. Once there we started to do our own improvements and prepared to add our first building to the lot. A 10' x 12' storage shed was ordered and built on site in June. We continued to add trees, bushes and flowers around the lot. Some of it was hard work but fun none the less.

[View the entire Latest Lot Improvments album](#)

The new grand baby was turning one in June, Susan's youngest son and his lady were getting married in July. There were other children's birthdays and then mothers day and father's day, The SIYC June Picnic, wedding showers, rehearsal dinner planning and shopping to be done. Pat's parents treated their children and spouses to a weeklong ocean cruise trip to Alaska in August. The

cruise was quick and a fantastic trip, however the most fun was being around Pat's folks and the rest of the family! We went to potluck dinners with friends and had great BBQ's with family.

[View the entire Alaskan Cruise album](#)

Needless to say it was a busy summer.

In late August Pat's oldest daughter gave birth to her second baby girl. We decided to go visit the new little one in Waco, Texas, and also Susan would go visit with her mother in PA. This pretty much filled up September.

In October we stayed pretty much on our lot and had a family reunion in the middle of the month. We were also getting ready to store the RV for the winter, as we had decided to spend six months in Mexico on the boat.

The first part of November we stored the RV and flew to Mazatlan, Mexico.

#### **4. Log Entry: 11/4/2008 – 12/31/2008 Our Mexico Adventure Resumes**

It was great to be back in Mazatlan with Susan this time. Also it was great to be back aboard Perpetua, planning and getting ready for a cruise.

Thanks for checking in on our activities!

More Later

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Note: Our email address requires the @ sign, not included here to minimize spamming.