


Tondelayo's Voyage

Tahiti – Papette: The Big City

Jun 4 – Jun 17, 2003

 tahitimarket_t.jpg (39734 bytes)

OK, Not many pictures of Tahiti, because I did not do much other than work on the boat, and run around the city, you know, that kind of stuff. I guess I should have taken a few more, but I was having a bit of fun actually being in a city. Anyway, here's one of the market.

Jun 4 Got checked in with the officials. Very quick and painless. Took about 20 minutes. Also got the rates for staying here on the dock, about \$20US per day. Not too bad, and I have not been tied up in a year, so I'm ready to be attached to land for a while. Pulled the engine bracket out, and found a place to get a new one built. Should be ready Friday. Pat and Lisa got a hotel. This makes packing all the stuff up a lot easier. Schmoe the cat is still around, though. P&L spent the day getting the paperwork to fly the Schmoe out all squared away. That night I went over to the market, got a beautiful T-Bone steak. It was awesome. The cat enjoyed it as well.

Jun 6 Laundry Day. Washed everything I could on the boat. Cushions, pillows, curtains, and of course clothes. Nice to have unlimited amounts of fresh water. Also, Karen on Priceless was using the sewing machine, so I fixed a few small things on the main and put in a bunch of extra stitches in almost all the seams on the leech of the sail. Hopefully this will keep it in good shape for a while. Ate baguette and cheese all day. Breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Jun 7 Finished up most of the washing. Unfortunately, it has been quite cloudy, and rainy so it is not drying too well. Actually, it pretty much rained all day. Did some more cleaning on the inside of the boat. Headed over to pick up the engine mount in the afternoon, and it was not only ready, but had been painted as well. Boy, I must not be in Mexico anymore.

When I returned, I met Devon and Pete at my boat. These are a couple of guys that I talked to on email quite a bit as potential crew. Their schedules did not quite match with mine, so we did not hook up. But, they had jumped ship from their other boat, and were looking for a new one. Since I had Micheal coming in a week, I could not take them on, but I let them stay a couple days for helping with some of the gruntwork on the boat. This worked out pretty well, as they were keen on a free place to stay, and there is always work to be done. Devon made an excellent Rogan Josh that night. (A kind of curry)

Jun 8 Sunday, headed to the market early, around 7. The place was mobbed, and there were vendors out side and on the street. Picked up a few veggies and some tofu. Then back to the boat for: More cleaning. Took apart the autopilot. The belt is broken so I hope to be able to find a new one in town, but I'm not sure I'll find one. We'll see what happens. Everything is closed. The market shut down as soon as church started. Worked on the boat for a while, then took the afternoon off to read a bit. Got dinner at the trucks on the pier.

Jun 9 Monday, another friggin holiday! I think these guys work 4 day weeks. Devon and Pete went over to a nice Megayacht to work, and got paid a reasonable \$10US per hour, and got a lunch out of the deal. I began charging them a couple bucks rent since they are working men. Went to the trucks again for dinner, and it started pouring rain while we were there. When we got back to the boat, tons of stuff was soaked, including the computer. I poured water out of it. Not good.

 computer_t.jpg (27504 bytes)

Jun 10 Everyone is back to work for a change. Went to the Port Captain and paid my bill, and let him know I'm heading to the anchorage around the corner tomorrow. Took the computer apart to dry. I mean really apart! Then had engine appreciation day. Changed the oil, adjusted valve clearance, changed the belts.

June 11 Found the Raytheon dealer in town and actually got the belt for my auto pilot. Got that all put back together, and it appears to be working! Around lunch, headed down to Maeva Beach anchorage. Took Gavin, another backpacker along for help. Very nice anchorage. Protected by the reef. Breathtaking view of Moorea. Had a nice night enjoying the peace and quiet of singlehanding.

 maeva1_t.jpg (22141 bytes)

June 12 After a proper American breakfast, went over for more coffee on Windchime. Then Golden Sovereign arrived, so we went over that way. Clive and I sent Niel up the mast to check out a problem with the roller furler. Then had a couple of morning beers. Later I took a trip to Carrefour, the megamart right next to the anchorage. Quite convenient. The place is pretty amazing. The cheese selection alone must have been bigger than most stores I have been shopping in for quite a while.

Jun 13 Friday the 13th. Always been a luck day for me. Well, got up and another boat had moved a bit closer the afternoon before while working on his engine, and this morning we could just about pass the Grey Poupon. So, I decided to move a bit, and after taking in 60 meters of chain twice, was finally happy. Took a swim in the crystal clear water to cool off. Micheal, my new crew flew in that night, so I took a walk to the airport and meet him there. Plane was on time, and he had no problems with customs or immigration. So, I got a few boat parts.

Jun 14 Food inventory, and installing the new pump for the fridge. This time I got a real beefy one that should last a bit longer than the last 2. Then a trip to town, where I found a keyboard to work around the bad keyboard on the laptop.

Jun 15 Sunday. Not much doing in town, so mostly working on the boat. Went to the store, which is open till noon, but found out (at 11am) that they stop selling beer at 10am. Maybe that's why they can't have real football here.

Jun 16 Back in town to try to get checked out. Turns out that Micheal has to put up a bond if we want to get to any other islands. (We do). So headed around town to try to find a proper fitting for connecting a butane tank to a piece of high pressure hose. (Long Story) Anyway, found something after about 5 miles of walking and 4 stores. It did not work. But, we did actually buy a case of Hinano beer!!!! \$42US. Worth every penny when you've been out for days.

Jun 17 Into town yet again, to check out, successfully this time! Everything went smooth, and we got a lot of other little errands done as well. Also picked up Laura, a backpacker/student looking to go to Moorea and Huahine. She is working on a survey of the impact of tourism/ecotourism on the local societies throughout the south pacific. She will be around for about a week before heading back to Tahiti and a flight out to Rarotonga.

Got back to the boat and decided to try to head over to Moorea, so we first dropped by the fuel dock for diesel and water. Then a little motor out of the reef and some sailing. Just barely enough wind to sail across the Bay of the Moon, so we went at it for a while, and then had to motor for a while. Got in just before dark.

[The Society Islands](#)

