






Tondelayo's Voyage

Farewell to the BDT, El Salvador, and South with Pat, Lisa and Schmoe

Jan 30 - Feb 28, 2003

<p>See Map - press your browser <i>back</i> button when finished.</p>	
<p>Jan 30 - Feb 5</p>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p>Getting the boat ready for the next stretch. Moving a few fans around, always more organizing, etc. Pat and Lisa are bringing their SSB/Ham radio and email modem, so we will have contact with the outside for a while. Put on fuel and water one day, and gave the boat a nice bath. Provisioning in Usulután. We bought 5 grocery baskets full of food, beer, toilet paper and other necessities, for \$390!!!</p> <p>Heading South with the new crew: Pat, Lisa and Schmoe off Seahorse. They are going as far as Tahiti, and then returning to their own boat for a trip down to the canal and into the Caribbean.</p> </div> </div> <p>Crew on Tondelayo eats well!</p>
<p>Feb 6 - 7</p>	<p>The trip across the bar from the Barillas estuary to the ocean was exciting to say the least. Huge standing waves from the tide combined with the usual wind driven waves to make extremely confused seas that were very steep. The bowsprit was slamming into the next wave before the stern was even out of the last one. I think this is where I cracked the bowsprit. Yikes. Well, once we left, we were hailed by Marc on Tramonto on the VHF who was sailing by. So, we set up a radio schedule and checked in with each other and asked about the weather. Also, found out he had a friend coming down, so got in touch with her to get a few parts brought down. Oh, speaking of weather, the Papagayo blows. Really hard. We had about 20 - 30 knots of wind with gusts higher for several days. We were offshore almost 30 miles, so the waves were a bit punishing, but we did pick up a nice current most of the way.</p>
<p>Feb 8</p>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p>Cabo Santa Elena. We were closing on land a few hours after sunrise and decided to head for the lee behind Cabo Santa Elena. Charlie's Chart says something about it being a nice spot to be in during while the Papagayos blow overhead. Well, that is wrong. After short tacking upwind most of the day to make about 5 miles, we finally got near the anchorage, and it was blowing even harder in the channel between the Cabo and some nearby islands (big surprise). We estimate that it was about 35+ with gusts around 50 knots. Never seen wind like that, just like standing up in the back of a pickup truck on the freeway. Well, we did manage to make it over to the "lee" and the wind was swirling from every direction and blowing about 0-40. We anchored and put out 200 feet of chain in 20 feet of water, and decided to listen to it blow. Got little sleep that night.</p> </div> </div> <p>Schmoe in her hammock, ready to sleep through anything</p>
<p>Feb 9</p>	<p>We were leaving Santa Elena, all ready for another battle, and then as soon as we left, the wind died. So we spent several hours trying to motor into a vicious current and making little headway, when the tide changed, and the wind picked up. Yeah! Now we had a beautiful sail down to Bahia Huevos. We were making 6-7 knots and only put the rail in once. Bahia Huevos was nice and calm that night and the next day. Water was not very clear, so snorkeling was no good. We spent 2 nights there licking our wounds and laying on deck for a change. Got a bunch of little things done around the boat as well.</p>
<p>Feb 11</p>	<p>Went into Coco, about 5 miles away, and did the check in procedure. Apparently this can be a pain if you have to wait for customs, but they happened to be there checking another boat, so we had no problems. You do need to Xerox about every piece of documentation you have for them though. It cost \$0. Should be about \$50 to leave though. Coco is pretty cool, but totally full of Gringos. They have a Best Western. Lots of cheap places to eat, and a decent grocery store. We did not stay in town that night. Polly Girl and Tramonto showed up, and they did go into town for a bit too fun by the look of some of them in the morning.</p>
<p>Feb 12</p>	<p>Next day, the wind was howling, so we decided to go down to Bahia Tamarindo. Marc's friend Cathy was there somewhere with some parts for me. We made it down in late afternoon. Had very strong wind leaving the anchorage, and blew a hole in my yankee, so put up the storm jib and sailed on with that. A few miles out, the wind abruptly died,</p>

	<p>and we ended up motoring a fair piece of the way. The anchorage had wind blowing about 20 knots the whole time we were there.</p> <p>Then next day we got a ride ashore and went looking for Cathy. Unfortunately she was not in her room, but we went walking around saying "Cathy?" to all likely looking suspects. Eventually, we did find her as she was walking back to her hotel, so I got my parts, and we had a nice shore excursion in the surf town of Tamarindo. That night we left, to head for Bahia Carrillo.</p>
Feb 13	<p>After a really nice sail down (but a little short on sail since we were still flying the storm jib) we arrived at Carrillo, and noticed that the water was pretty clear, so went out for a snorkel. Nice water, lots of fish and coral. Not much for shooting (eating) though. Finished mending the sail, which was taking up half the cabin. Next day Pat and Lisa went ashore to a little retreat, and had a snack and a swim at the pool. The following day, we out snorkeling again, and I shot a nice Yellow Snapper which became fish tacos later that day. Then cleaned the boat up so we could leave at first light the next morning.</p>
Feb 17	<p>Got up before the crack of dawn and got moving. Motored out of the anchorage and caught a nice breeze a little way out. Then we started catching fish. Picked up a dorado, skipjack, cravalle, and finally a little yellowfin tuna. Kept the dorado and the tuna. Yummy. The sailing was spectacular for almost the whole day, but ended with a bit of motorsailing up into the anchorage. Wind dropped off at sunset and everything was calm and beautiful under the full moon.</p>
Feb 18 - 19	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p style="text-align: center;">  Bahia Ballena Yach Club </p> </div> <div style="width: 50%;"> <p>Went snorkeling, and saw a few of the scallops that we used to get in the Sea of Cortez, and a nice variety of fish, a few that would be good eatin'. Did not shoot any since we had plenty of fish already. The wind came up a bit in the afternoon so we moved to the other side of the bay to get a little shelter from the waves. There is a little "Yacht club" restaurant that we went over to the next day for lunch. We need more beer. Always need more beer.</p> </div> </div>
Feb 20	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p style="text-align: center;">  Pat and Andrew on the ferry </p> </div> <div style="width: 50%;"> <p>Decided to go to Puntarenas, the nearest big city for a few things and to scout out the supplies available for fixing the Bowsprit. So, got up early and headed to shore around 8am to catch bus (which took an hour) and then rode the bus to the ferry (which took an hour), and then took the ferry over to Puntarenas (which took an hour). So by 11:30 we were there and did a bit of wandering, picked up a few things and visited every hardware store in town.</p> </div> </div>
Feb 21	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p style="text-align: center;">  Ouch! </p> </div> <div style="width: 50%;"> <p>Friday, so Honey's vegetable truck is in town for unloading for her vegetable market on Saturday. Picked up a bunch of really nice looking vegetables, lots of organic stuff there. Then filled the fuel and water via jerry jugs and disassembled the catwalk on the sprit to assess the damage. Went to shore to watch the Americas Cup, but it was cancelled again.</p> </div> </div>
Feb 22 - 26	<p>One more trip to Puntarenas for parts. Rebuilding the bowsprit, stronger! More water, and lots of laundry, done by hand. Tramonto showed up and came over. Also, found a bar on the beach that will give you a piece of garlic fried fish for every beer that you drink. Needless to say, we all got dinner.</p>
Feb 27- 28	<p>Headed over to Puntarenas, Took about 6 hours of motoring to get here. The wind picked up right before we got there and would have been a good downwind sail, but we only motorsailed for about an hour or so. The entrance to puntarenas is pretty shallow, about 10 feet in spots, but we found a nice spot to anchor in about 14 feet. The tides here are about 10+ feet, so you have to be careful where you anchor. Anyway, went out for consados a plate of meat (of your choice) rice, beans, salad, plantains, ect. The tradicional Costa Rican meal, which costs about \$2, at any "Soda."</p> <p>Went ashore in the morning to clear out for French Polynesia. Requested permission to stop at Isla Cocos on the way, and got it. Made one more haul of food back to the boat, and one las trip to the internet. Tomorrow...</p>

We head SSW to Cocos Island. This will be the first time since leaving the US that we have begun to head westward directly away from the continent. It feels good to be sailing for places that are far over the horizon. After a short stop at Cocos, SSW on down to the Galapagos. I expect to be able to get internet there, but you never know. Check the site in about a month, I hope to have some good wildlife pics!

Mar
01 -
05



Flying fish rigged for trolling

On the road west, to Isla Cocos, and then on to Galapagos. Sailed in light wind the first 2 days or so, and then motored the rest of the way. This is typical of the ITCZ (InterTropical Convergence Zone) or the doldrums. Also had a few rainstorms, one with heavy rain, so we scrubbed the boat, crew, and caught some water for laundry.



Mar
05 -
06

Arrived at Isla Cocos around 7am. Hailed the Park Service, and they said that they would be around in a few hours. So we went snorkeling in the mean time. The snorkeling is awesome. There are incredible numbers of fish, of many different species, and SHARKS! Some 5-6 foot white tipped reef sharks, and some 2-3 foot black tips. They are pretty harmless, but still kind of freaky to be swimming right next to them.

Well the Ranger did come by, and we had to pay \$25 for the boat and \$25 for each person - \$100. PER NIGHT! Needless to say we only spent one night, but hey, it is not like I'm going to get a chance to come back here.

Went on a hike in the afternoon. The island is very steep, and covered in lush vegetation, so hiking is exhausting and very hot. Went back to the boat and cooled off with another snorkel. This time we went to an island off the west side of the anchorage and had even better snorkeling. Some 5-6 foot white tipped reef sharks, and some 2-3 foot black tips. Just incredible numbers of all the usual fish and many more species that we have not seen before. If you are quick, you can catch lobsters by hand. They flash to bright red when you catch them, and have less spines than the Mexican ones. Unfortunately we could not taste any of them since they are protected along with everything else.

Slept in, and then went snorkeling again in the morning. Good, but not as good as the night before. Well, at that point we were pretty snorkeled out and felt like we got our \$100 worth, so we decided to pack up and head out for the next stop Galapagos.

Mar
06 -
10

Left Cocos in the late afternoon. Motoring, sailing and more of both. Lots of adverse currents, which made for slow going. Most days we made around 70 miles.

Mar
11-
12



Approaching the line



The GPS at 0



And the Captain toasting with some Champagne

09:58:19 CST (15:58:19 Z) - Crossed the Equator!!! Had a toast to Neptune and continued on. Only about 70 miles to go to Academy Bay on Santa Cruz Island. We are slowing the boat down to avoid arriving after dark tonight. We should arrive tomorrow morning, Wednesday March 12, after a long slow ride from Costa Rica. Light wind and

adverse currents made for a 10.5 day, 700 mile passage. Hopefully, our downwind running to the Marquesas will have better times!!!

Oh, the Department of Defense dies the line different colors each time they put a new one down. We heard last year it was orange.
