

Stuff about what we have been up to down here.

	Past Adventures Home
April 6-9	Traveling North. About 20 miles the first day to Jaltemba, 8 miles to Chacala to meet up with Sea Road , ar 20 miles to Mantanchen Bay. Went ashore in Mantanchen for ice and Banana Bread. It is a strange thing about Mexico, every town has a signature thing, and many people sell it. This place is a Mexican Resort ar and has lots of Palapas and a handful of stores up the road. All the stores sell Banana Bread, but I've never seen it anywhere else in Mexico. Left early on the 9th for Isla Isabela. Around dawn, Scott started catching Sierra, and stopped fishing after 3. I caught one baracuda, but that was it. Once we were in blue water we started trolling our for offshore fish. We both came up with a nice Dorado. Showed up at the anchorage la afternoon and invited the guys (Ann and Dave) on Taking Flight, a Cal 34 and Scott for a fish feast. They brought fresh bread and some chocolatey fudge brownie like dessert. Mmmmm.
April 10	Out in the great wide open again. 6 boats here this morning, and the water is crystal clear. Morning high clouds made a nice sunrise. Slept like a log, the sea was flat last night. I finished all last nights dishes, had coffee and am waiting for someone to get up to go spearfishing with. Went spearfishing all morning with Scott, and bagged a bunch of fish and a lobster. This was Scott's first ti shooting fish, he got a nice Gaftopsail Pompano. Had ceviche for lunch and dinner over at Taking Flight. Thought about snorkeling after dark for some more bugs, but were way too tired.
April 11	Boat work and a day sail on Sea Road to test some self steering ideas. Caught and released a Skipjack. Ha dinner on Sea Road, all the Fish and Lobster from yesterday. I baked brownies. Just lovin' Isabela .
April 12	Got up early to replenish the fish supply. Scott and I bagged 3 Yellow Snapper, 4 Flag Cabrilla, a Triggerfish and a couple Lobsters. Also traded with the fisherman for a few more lobsters. Had a taco feas and made a whole bunch of ceviche. Funny thing happened later. A package floated by on top of the water. Turned out to be a few of kilos of marijuana. The guys on Taking Flight ended up drowning it. You just never know what is going to be floating by. Lobsters for dinner, I think we have 8 or 9 for 4 people.
April 13	Took a hike around the Island. Woooaa, I got pretty land sick trying to walk on all those crazy paths. Saw types of Iguana, and the usual compliment of Boobies and Frigateges. Shot some fish for dinner, Scott and had grilled fish tacos.
April 14-15	Left about noon for Mazatlan. Took about 23 hours to get there, sailed a bit over half the way. The night w COLD. So cold I had to wear sweat pants, and a jacket up on deck. Must have been 60 degrees. Had to di out the hot chocolate. Wind was out of the WNW so I sailed most of the way there on 1 tack. Lots of turtle around, usually with hitchhikers .
April 16-17	Time to run errands and such in Maz. Diesel, Water, Food, and all that. Should be leaving on Thursday (18th) morning to cross the Sea, about 170 miles, which should take about 48 hours. Wind has been light lately. Found a roll of film from 1 and a half years ago, a trip Chris and I took backpacking at Big Sur .
April 18	Heading across the Sea, not exactly sure where I will end up, but probably Los Frailes, since it is about the closest. Met up with Sea Road, a few miles off shore, but he had to turn around to call his family. (?) Wel the wind is right out of the NW, it seems to be coming out of La Paz. Forecast is for wind Variable 10-20, basically that means noone knows. Afternoon wind is especially strong today, up around 20 knots, I droppe the main and am sailing with the Genoa and Mizzen. Saw a Dorado hit both my lures, but he got off the fir and took the second.
April 19	Good wind from a bad direction continued all night, and let up around sunrise. I am now far south of Cabo. but at least made some westing along with the southing. Trying to get back north without loosing too much ground, Tondelayo does not like to go to weather. Tacking angle is about 140 degrees in 20 knots of breez Found 4 big (8 inch) flying fish on the deck this morning, not quite big enough to eat. Wind light or nothin most of the day, but the usual Northwester filled in around 3pm. Has a little more west in it than usual. Something bent one side of the windex, maybe a frigate bird last night.
April 20	West wind held into late night. Got light around 3am and died at daylight. Started motoring, and wind fille in early from the North.. Sailing straight where I want to go for a change. Wind contunued to build and I continued to reef. Ended the day with a reef in the Mizzen and no Main. Arrived at Los Frailes just after dark, and thought they built a casino, but it just ended up being the biggest yacht that I have ever seen. The genoa would not come down for some reason, so I was about to anchor with the thing flogging all over the place when it finially unjammed and dropped to the deck. Weird. Anchored between a couple of motorboa in 5 fathoms. Total Travel Time: 60 hours

	Total Distance 263 miles	Straight Line Distance 170 miles.
	Avg Speed 4.38 knot	Velocity Made Good 2.83 knots
April 21	<p>Hauled myself up the mast to fix the windex, which luckily I had a spare part for, and to check out the Genoa. Fixed the windex, but could not find anything unusual with the Genoa halyard. Winds were still blowing 1: out of the northwest, so the boat was pitching around a bit while I was up there. Swam from the boat over to the rocks for some spearfishing, but I was cold, and tired by the time I got there. The water here is very cold compared to Isabela. Got totally skunked, so I ate cereal for dinner. Wind became light from the Southeast in the evening, but I was too tired to leave, however I think it would have been good sailing.</p>	
April 22	<p>Got up and the wind was still out of the west, so probably going to blow lighter from the north than yesterday. Maybe tonight or tomorrow will be a good time to leave. Went spearfishing again, better luck this time, a couple of Hogfish (related to sheepshead) and a Machete (aka Ladyfish). Ladyfish is related to tarpon, and bet these guys are great on light tackle. However, as a food fish, not too tasty, and full of bones.</p>	
April 23	<p>Got up before sunrise to head north before the wind builds up. Muertos, the next anchorage is 47 miles straight upwind. Started trolling and caught my first Sierra. These guys are good eating, make the best ceviche, and are great grilled. They don't get real big (1-5lbs), but they have a lot of meat for their size. Caught 9 frigate mackerel, and a Black Skipjack, and threw them all back. The wind started piping up around 3pm, and kept on going. The waves got too steep to motor into, so I started motorsailing, but was getting abused if I pointed too high. Wind was sustained 20-25 knots, and gusting to a bit higher. Once I finally got close enough that there was not enough fetch to build up big wind waves, I started making better time. Anchored in 4 fathoms around 1830. The entire boat is encrusted in salt from all the spray. I made sashimi out of the Sierra, Yummy!!!! Thanks to Dave and Kelly for the Wasabi.</p> <p>Tony and Linda on Panache are here, yet another boat from Ventura (C dock). He said that it blew all day here, but the weather said 5-15 knots was predicted. Yeah right.</p>	
April 24	<p>Not much going on in Muertos, Bay of the Dead. Sat through another day of howling wind, but have a feeling that it will be lighter tomorrow. Also, this anchorage is in a notch between 2 mountains, and I think that it funnels the wind through, so hopefully it will not be quite so strong around the corner. Plan to leave early and get as close as possible to La Paz. It is about 60 miles all the way there.</p>	
April 25	<p>Was awakened around 3am by increasing wind. Around 15 to 20 knots. Decided not to leave and finished reading "Lolita" instead. Odd little book, but beautiful language. Dove down to check out the anchor: well dug in, and it does not look like it has moved at all. Swapped the Genoa for the Yankee, in case I decide to pound through all this wind and try to make up near La Paz tomorrow. There are now 13 boats here, 2 days ago there were only 2. Everyone coming from Mazatlan seems to have had a bit of a wild time, decksweeping waves and such.</p> <p>The last of the ice in the icebox melted today. That means that I got 7 1/2 days out of the ice. I have started putting a pillow over the lid for insulation, and it has extended the ice from 4 1/2 to 7 1/2 days. This is a cost savings and pain in the ass savings of 60%. Not sure I will be getting too much ice north of La Paz, especially block ice. I'll have to make friends with some boats with refrigeration. :)</p>	
April 26	<p>Woke up before light, and sailed off the anchor in the moonlight, with west wind, 8 knots. Got up into the Cerralvo Channel with simultaneous sunrise and moonset, with beautiful sailing. Better than picture perfect. A few hours later, the wind died and I motored for a few hours to get up into the San Lorenzo Channel. From there was able to sail all the way down into La Paz Harbor where I finally turned on the motor. Strong flood tide coming in. Using the keel as a sounding device I found the sandbar that runs through the middle of the channel (ran aground). Since the tide was flooding in, I waited around for it and with the help of a dingy, floated her off a little while later. Anchored in 4 fathoms. There are dolphins (Bottlenose) all over the harbor here, just cruising around. The water is surprisingly clean. Lots of dolphins around in the bay.</p>	
April 27 to May 2	<p>Checking out La Paz. Pretty nice city, not too big, and not too touristy. Lots of stuff here on Baja comes from the states. Several brands of cheddar cheese. :) Prices are a bit higher than the mainland. Tons of marine services, several marinas, and yards, and chandleries. Lots of helpful people around. Borrowed a boat one day and rode all over the place. Checking in is difficult here since everything is so far apart. Lots of walking involved.</p>	
Future	Plan B: Head up to the Sea of Cortez for a really hot summer of desert scenery and snorkeling.	

Far Future?	Maybe head South to Costa Rica, and Panama in the Fall and check out Galapogos on the way to South Pacific next year. We'll see.