

**Balboa Yacht Club  
Amador, Panama**

10/14/2007 - 10/21/2007

Lat: 8.9 Lon: -79.6

This is a summary of our stay at the Balboa Yacht Club.

Started calling Balboa Yacht Club on VHF about 20 miles out. Never got a response so finally phoned using Sat phone. Confirmed the mooring that Eduardo had arranged was indeed available.

Arrived at BYC around 1400. No one standing by to direct us to assigned mooring. Finally, with direction over radio and after some confusion moored at what probably was the intended mooring. A launch, with a couple of guys, helped with the mooring. Thought, they were part of BYC, later found out it was "Junior" and friends. Junior is one of those "facilitators" found everywhere "yachties" congregate. Good ones can be very helpful - Junior proved to be a good one. He helped us with our entry, which Eduardo was suppose to do; arranged a taxi to be always on call during our week stay; arranged linesmen for the canal transit; and got us an overnight slip at the Panama Yacht Club in Colon after our transit with very little advanced noticed.

At BYC, for security purposes, dingies are not allowed at dock. Instead, a launch is on call 24 hours a day to ferry you back and forth from your boat to the dock at no additional charge. Duane was on the first launch that stopped by, unfortunately we had not finished securing the boat nor checked in so we scheduled to meet up with him later at the Country Inn. A couple hours later, after getting checked into Panama Larry and I met up with Duane at TGI Friday's for an early evening.

Monday, Larry departed to start a week or so tour of Panama. Junior took Duane and I to finish the checkin process, get Larry removed from Asanagi's crews list and and Duane added, and to get my Panama cruising permit. Glacier Bay still trying to determine how to solve the port genset leak. Finished up the day with another, not as early evening at TGI Friday's.

Tuesday, got an email from Larry. He is having trouble with his vision which he believes might be related to a bump on the head he got on Asanagi. He has not been able to have it attended to in Panama so has decided to immediately return to the States. Duane and I spend most of the day determining how for me to best obtain cash, get a local chip for my cell phone, and look for various parts for Asanagi. Got the cash using my bank debit card at an ATM at the local grocery store. Got the phone chip and will return tomorrow to buy minutes for the phone. Didn't find any parts for Asanagi but got a few potential places to look, Met with Eduardo at the Marriott around 1800 to go over the next steps in applying for the Pensionado visa. Eduardo, Duane and I had dinner at the Sports Bar in the Marriott - Julie and Allie know the place.

Wednesday, got the minutes for the phone and did preliminary provisioning for the transit and passage to Bocas del Toro. Duane decided to check out of the Country Inn and move aboard - considering the heat and lack of air conditioning doubt Asanagi will be as comfortable as the Country Inn. Duane has decided to take on the galley duties.

Thursday, Duane and I arrive at the main immigration office downtown at 0700 to apply for my Pensionado visa. After waiting a couple hours finally get to see a clerk only to be told I have to go to Diablo immigration office since on Monday they stamped my passport indicating I was a crew member on a merchant ship. After a couple of taxi rides and hours we are back in front of the clerk, everything seems okay and the Pensionado visa application has been accepted. From there we meet with Eduardo at his office to go over a few items and then off to get a blood test, needed for the Pensionado. Although it seems this has taken all day actually it is only noon. Back on Asanagi check emails and find out Larry's vision is expected to return to normal so luckily his problem is not as serious as it may have been. Also, Glacier Bay has decided, as Larry had insisted for a week, that the leak is from a freeze plug and is "not a field serviceable item". They recommend I add radiator "stop leak" additive and try to save the port genset for emergencies. No reason to stay in Balboa any longer so I call Eduardo and ask him to schedule the canal transit. He calls back in an hour or so and says the Admeasure is scheduled for Saturday.

Friday, get an early call from Eduardo, the Admeasure can come this morning due to a cancelation. I say great - they are scheduled to arrive before noon. Around 1030 they arrive and take measurements. At first they come up with a length of a little over 50 ft since that is a big fee breakpoint I insist they remeasure since the boat is suppose to be 47ft. They remeasure and come up with 49+ft but under 50ft so everything is okay. As we wait for the launch to take them back to the dock I mention our next stop is Bocas and they talk of parties they have had there in the past, these are 2 young guys. For the past couple of days BYC seems to be playing games, requiring us to call several time to get through to the launch and then wait for an hour or so for the launch. Seems they are playing the same game with the Admeasures, after an hour one of the guys calls his office and tells them they are stranded on Asanagi because BYC won't send a launch. Shortly thereafter the launch comes, Duane and I decide to head in with them since we might not be able to get another one today. Spend the afternoon searching for radiator "stop leak" additive, radiator coolant, 300 amp fuses for the inverter, and plumbing to fix the holding tank "back flooding". By day's end have the radiator "stop leak" and coolant and 2 300amp fuses - a good day. Early evening get a call from Eduardo, transit spots available starting Sunday - when do I want to go. Tell him early as possible.

Saturday, get an early call from Eduardo that the transit Advisor is scheduled to board Asanagi in the channel at buoy 16 off the BYC at 0700 Sunday to start the transit. I call Junior and tell him we need the linesmen tomorrow morning for the transit - no problem. I add the "stop leak" to the port genset. Duane and I do the final provisioning, go by Subway to get meals for the linesmen and Advisor for the transit, and stop by a marine store to pick up silicone spray - Roni suggested it may help with some of the porthole leaks I'm having. Mid afternoon Eduardo stops by to see Asanagi and bids us farewell. Also confirm with him one last time that a Zarpe is not needed for either transiting the canal or for going from Colon to Bocas. Run port genset to circulate radiator "stop leak" - it may be slowing the leak. Early night since have to get started early tomorrow.

Sunday, by 0600 Asanagi is ready and Junior and his guys are suppose to be here - they are not.

THE ABOVE WAS WRITTEN NOV 3RD, 2007 FROM MEMORY. I EXPECT INACCURACIES EXIST BUT DO NOT BELIEVE THEY ARE SIGNIFICANT.