

Valdivia to Balboa
Log

9/17/2006

Planned to depart Valdivia at 6:15 local time but heavy fog. Delayed departure until 9:30 -still heavy fog but decided to go, hoping the fog was not off shore.

Had 2.5 knot current behind us going down river to bay making a total of 4.5 knots. Luckily no fog off shore.

Sea calm with 2 to 3 knot wind on the nose - motoring at around 7 knots using 1 genset. So far no problems. Seem to be burning about 1 gal/hr.

9/18/2007

My best estimate for yesterday is we burned 1.3 gal/hr for an average of 5.2 nm/gal at 6.8 nm/hr using one genset.

Saw our first ship today, by the end of the day had seen 4 or 5, closest was 1.5 nm.

This morning seas calm with a 4 to 5 ft swell, our SOG was a little over 7 knots. Early afternoon the winds picked up, still close to being on the nose, a confused sea with 3 to 5 ft chop. The boat was slamming, pumping air out the stern, and shattering - sounded like cannon fire. That lasted a few hours with our SOG dropping to a little over 6 knots.

Early this morning the water had warmed to about 62F by late afternoon it had cooled back down to 59F.

Been lucky, seen light rain all around us but have avoided it so far.

Chuck suggested we do 3 instead of 4 hour watches so that is what we did last night and tonight. We will probably continue this at least until we get to warmer weather - after 3 hours on night watch we are chilled to the bone and eager to be relieved. Water temperature started dropping this evening, back down to the mid 50sF.

Larry cooked last night and Chuck this evening, tomorrow my time. Good meals and so far none of us have been sea sick - there may have been some queasiness but no one has admitted to it.

Estimated we averaged 5.0 nm/gal, 1.36 gal/hr and 6.8 nm/hr today.

If tomorrow's progress equals today's we should reach Algarrobo by early evening Wednesday.

9/19/2007

This morning wind and seas calm although some rain in the distance we didn't have any.

Around noon we hit the rain, winds increased up to 25 knots on the nose and waves built up to about 5 to 8 ft, confused with about a 3 second period. I manually steered my 3 hour watch since the autopilot was continually working and still not able to stay on track. After my watch the wind and waves slacked enough that the autopilot was able to at least stay on a heading without seriously overworking although it still wasn't able to track to a waypoint.

I fixed wraps and soup for dinner since although things were quieting down they were by no means calm. Also, the water temperature had starting rising again, up to about 64sF, the air temperature had dropped.

By 20:00 or so things calmed, the winds lighter and slightly off the nose so we started making up some of the time we had lost over the previous 6 or 7 hours.

We reached our last waypoint around 3:30 Thursday morning. However, I overshot Algarrobo when setting the waypoint so had to back track some. We finally got to the yacht club marina about 4:30 and tied to wall.

Estimate for the last leg we averaged 4.4 nm/gal, 1.36 gal/hr and 6.0 nm/hr. For the total trip from Valdivia to Algarrobo we averaged 4.9 nm/gal, 1.34 gal/hr and 6.6 nm/hr.

9/20/2007

The marina guard came by the boat about 30 minutes after we arrived - we were still playing with the lines trying to get tied up so as to stay off the wall and not blow into the boats med moored all around us. He was very friendly, warned us about the tides and winds, asked for the boats name and said he would call the Port Captain for us since we could not raise him on Channel 16.

Around 8:30 the marina workers started showing up, said we needed fuel, would like to stay overnight then leave tomorrow morning. The people are friendly and helpful, the dock master called the Navy for us then came back in about 30 minutes with several workers to help with our lines and take us to the fuel dock. We filled up taking on a little over 90 gals. They put us in a nice dock space.

After getting situated the guys went to the club house took showers than went into town to do some shopping. I filled the water tanks, washed down the boat, fixed a few of our easier broken items and then went to the club house and took my shower.

We asked the dock master about finding rope and material for fixing the hatches. He introduced us to a guy that goes to town and finds whatever you want. We asked for line to re-rig our reefing lines and caulking to seal the hatches until I get them fixed in Panama. He came back with the caulking, weather stripping type tape and a fast repair fiberglass that cures in the sun. The tape did, what I believe is, a great job of fixing the hatches - now they may not need fixing in Panama, we'll see. The caulking is good to have as is the fiberglass repair material. He didn't have line but said we could get it for about \$1.00 per meter. Since I would expect it to cost at least \$2.00 or \$3.00 per foot we decided to pass. Especially since the dock master said that there was no good rope available locally and that all the club members get theirs in Santiago.

Checked buoyweather and things are getting worse, seems sometime Sunday weather will start getting better so we have decided to delay our departure. Now expect to leave Sunday at first light.

Been fighting it, but think I've got a cold.