



~~ Eight Bells ~~
Bahamas High Adventure
" Le Pecheur D'Etoiles "
News from below decks

SHIP 1942 Arlington Va

July 2005

Day 1, July 4: We arrived at the Abaco International airport and promptly went to the marina where Le Pecheur D'Etoiles was anchored. We met Cap'n Del, Em's and their adorable dog, Sunny, once we were aboard. We then motored over the Matlowes Key where we anchored. After we anchored, we picked our buddies and performed the swim tests. Everyone was very surprised by how salty the water is in comparison to the Chesapeake. For dinner, we had hamburgers. Afterwards, we celebrated Anne Bowen's (my mother) birthday with cake and fireworks.

Day 2, July 5: We started out the day by being appointed to teams that were in charge of sails (Jib 1 and 2, Main and Mizzen). While we sailing Cap'n Del informed the crew that we were to pick one of us to become the captain and he would become the admiral. The crew all voted for our most experienced sailor on the ship – Amanda. Soon after that, the Admiral and 3 chaperones dressed up as pirates and attacked us with half of the balloons that we had made a half hour before. After the battle (which the crew won), we went snorkeling at the Mermaid Reef which was incredibly beautiful. That night the first bowline competition was held. Adam won and decided to pick a cold coke over a hot 60 second shower.

Day 3, July 6: In the morning, the crew decided to go on land to shop at Great Guanacay. We sailed for most of the day and eventually anchored at Baker's Bay where we went to an old ship wreck that had fantastic fish. Keith saw a barracuda. After snorkeling, we went to the beach and built a bonfire where we cooked hotdogs and marshmallows. Unfortunately, our dinner was cut short by biting bugs that devoured us. When we went back to the boat, we were pleasantly surprised by a visit from the crew of the Gallant Lady who brought us sodas, candy and ice from their amazing ships.

Day 4, July 7: We left Baker Bay and sailed to Water Cay that had virtually no ships. While we were sailing, almost all (with the exception of four or five people) fell asleep for the entire trip. Once we arrived, Em's took John, Arlen, Izzy, Stephanie, Julia, Danielle and Laura out to one of the cove's to search for conch. Though it took 2 hours, they found 15 conch. That night, we held the second bowline competition and we were not very surprised when Adam won yet again. But this time, he chose to take a hot shower. That night was very windy due to Hurricane Dennis who was beginning to worry us because it was speculated that he might pass through Abaco.

Day 5, July 8: The day was very windy and we spent the morning waiting for the forecast which luckily informed us that we would get high winds but would not be hit directly by Dennis. We had a lot of difficulty with the sails because winds were so high. First, the pin snapped on the backstay, and then Jib 1 ripped almost in half. A few of the other sails got tears in them as well. Eventually, the winds built up to over 30 knots so we were forced to motor back to Water Cay. Cap'n Del, Em's, Sunny, John, Brittany, Mr. McGurk, Danielle and Laura went over to a small island. Cap'n Del collected snails for our Salmagundi for dinner that night. When we went back to the ship, dinner was prepared and right before we ate, Cap'n Del prepared us for the pirate contest. After Salmagundi, Cap'n Del and Em's prepared a fantastic skit that the crew really enjoyed. The pirate contest was a blast because of all the crazy characters that everyone came up with. In the end, it was decided that Stephen, the Parrot Boy, who was part of the Three Twins with John and Amanda, was the winner. After the contest, we held a court for everyone who had done something wrong during the week. Everyone who was called up was found guilty – including Cap'n Del and the 3 chaperones who were the judges. After the punishments were doled out, we sang a bunch of pirate songs and drank hot chocolate. Later, we bunked down for a very windy night.

Day 6, July 9: We began the day by the entire crew walking the plank because a couple people fell asleep during anchor watch. After breakfast, we motored over to Great Guanacay and immediately jumped into the fresh water pool. We had a wonderful lunch at Nippers. Most of us had much needed showers at the marina. We spent about three hours at Great Guanacay. When we returned to the ship, we met another ship called the Odyssey which carried marine biologists who were researching the effects of pollution on sperm whales and other species for the Ocean Alliance. They came over to our ship and talked to us about how they have spent five and a half years on the ship sailing around the world in the name of science. After they left, we motored over to Marsh Harbor and had a lot of trouble anchoring. John almost fell over but luckily only lost the boat hook which Cap'n Del saved. Eventually, the anchor stopped dragging and we were able to have dinner. After dinner, we held the final bowline competition and the outcome was very surprising because the previously undefeated Adam was beat in the second round and the winner ended up being Brittany (which was thrilling). After the competition, we went to bed and prepared for a very unwanted departure the following day.

Day 7, July 10: We cleaned up the ship and reluctantly packed our bags for our departure to home. We are hopeful that we will be able to shop a little bit more; however, it is unlikely because today is the Bahamian Independence Day. We are very sad this trip is ending because of how phenomenal it is here in the Bahamas. We are very thankful for Cap'n Del, Em's (and Sunny) because they have been great teachers and they have really shown us a good time.

