

Eight Bells

NEWS FROM BELOW DECKS

Le Pecheur D'Etoiles

Crew 361

July 8th , 2006

Winner of the Pirate Competition

Josh Jay
"Johnny Rum"

Winner of the Bowline Competition

Joey Whitmer

Bugler

Devin Murphy

Engineer

Ric Murphy

Editor

Bryce Danz

Captain

Bryce Danz

In the hours following the arrival of our crew's plane into the Bahamas, the new crew of Le Pecheur D'Etoiles began to get their first taste of life at sea. The crew quickly climbed aboard the boat and took what we were told was our last sail as passengers aboard the ship as we divided into teams and began our voyage as the crew of the ship. The crew was tested for their swimming abilities, and naturally each crew member passed without difficulty. However, life at sea was not all fun and games; when Evan began to whistle he was surprised to find himself being sharply reprimanded for breaking the sacred "no whistling" rule. Unfortunately for the intrepid crew, it began to rain immediately before dinner, forcing the crew to eat in the galley rather than on the deck. After dinner, the crew competed in the infamous bowline contest. The crew quickly broke up into two factions; those who tied the bowline the "boy scout" way, and those who tied the bowline the "Emsy" way. Almost everyone in the crew realized practice was needed to procure a win against the stiff competition, but after a harrowing triple final death round Joey became our first bowline competition winner, winning himself a fabulous prize; a cold can of coke. It seems that Joey's careful choice of the "Emsy" way won out over the boy scout traditionalists. After the contest, the crew was shocked to discover that their long night's sleep would be interrupted by a night watch. Much debate ensued over the orders and the lengths of time, but in the end the groups decided to place one person out at a time in order to get the most sleep. Determined to get an early start on his rest, the scoutmaster was dismayed to find the crew having a loud celebration in the bow of the boat. Numerous requests and several keelhauling threats later the crew fell asleep and began to carry out their watches. The night watches happily discovered that fireworks, and later a lightning show were appearing in the sky above. The next day the crew woke up bright and early at six, ready to begin a long day of adventure on the high seas. After a breakfast prepared by the day's galley crew, the crew began to learn the things we would need to know to sail the ship. Each person was assigned a job, and in order to sail the ship each person must perform their job. After a long session of explanations and confusion we managed to get underway with a minimum of help from the motor. The

crew was delighted to discover the unconventional way in which speed is measured on a sailing boat; "iens". Saltines without salt, to be more exact. Joey, Matt, and Kevin determined that during our very first time at sail we were traveling a respectable 14 ines. After several hours of hard sailing, the ship arrived at a place called Mermaid reef, a place where the ship were reported to eat out of one's hands. The crew divided up into pairs of two, and each pair was given a bag containing some saltines (or possibly just ines) to tempt the local fish with. The captain dropped us off in the dingy, towing several lucky crew members behind on a rope. Once there the crew began to take advantage of the abundant marine wildlife. However, Chris and Stuart got more snorkeling than they bargained for when one of the local pilot fish began to eat the algae off their bodies. Other members of the crew made off much better, including Bryce and Josh who spotted an octopus and Mr. and Mrs. Hill who enjoyed the beach. After the crew had enjoyed the beautiful tropical reef, we decided to try our hand at sailing once again and set sail for Bakers Bay. That night, we had a bonfire on the beach and roasted hot dogs and marshmallows. Evan, Chris, Stuart, and Joey hoisted up Mr. Anderson to grab three coconuts, which were quickly chopped open with a machete which Joey and Josh found. The lucky crew split the booty and everyone enjoyed fresh coconut milk and rind. Early the next morning, the crew set off for the other side of the island on a long "death march" along the beach and across a trail full of pieces of bark. Unfortunately for Joey and Stuart, who decided against taking shoes on the venture, the trail was very rough and those unlucky enough to be caught barefoot suffered extreme splintering. Once we arrived at the beautiful reef, we snorkeled and took in the sights of the beautiful barrier separating the island from the Atlantic ocean. Upon our return, the overcast weather cleared and the crew was forced to endure a harsh sun beating down upon our backs. Upon our return to the boat, the group split up to take advantage of the beautiful beach with a sand castle competition. Joey, Evan, Chris, and Stuart (the "click") faced off against Bryce, Josh, Kevin, Devin, and Matt. Luckily for your highly competitive secretary, the second team prevailed, as the "Pirate island" beat "The bloody English" by one point. However, the fun

Was hardly over. When we returned to the boat the crew held a contest That night, round two of the bowline contest was held and the long hours of practice paid off as Devin pulled out a victory. That night, problems began to occur as the ship's night watches underwent tension. Ric took a shorter watch, waking up Mr. Hill 20 minutes early, and Stuart woke up Mrs. Hill instead of Joey. In the morning, the crew decided that captain Del needed to be replaced and decided to mutiny! Bryce Danz was elected to replace Captain Del, and the good captain was promoted to admiral. After the revolution, the crew set sail for the town of Great Guana. The crew went into town, and good times were had by all. Ric, Devin, Josh, and Kevin checked out the local Bahamian girls while the adults snuck into the air conditioned bathrooms, a fact which they loudly disclosed once we had left the island. After the crew had finished yelling at Mr. Anderson, they found yet another reason to become angry with him; he had made chili with vegetables. Vegetables aside, the chili was excellent and the crew went to bed satisfied. The next day we set sail for Water Key. When we arrived the group had a beautiful snorkel through abandoned industrial machinery, which was the home of many beautiful fish. In fact, Ric, Devin, Kevin, and Bryce came face to face with one of the larger barracudas. Ric still swears that "the thing was about to eat me". "Seriously." After the ordeal, the crew came up onto the beach and enjoyed coconuts and a bonfire. The next day, we sailed to the town of Man of War, where the crew went ashore and raided the local grocery of ice cream. That night, we hooked up a giant branch to the mast and swung off the deck into the beautiful water. After the swinging, we dressed up as pirates to enjoy Sal Ma Gundy, the fest which is enjoyed after a crew raids a ship. After our feast, the crew held the pirate contest, and competed to be the pirate not thrown off the boat. Josh eventually won, and the rest were chucked off like dogs. After that, we held pirate court to determine which were guilty of whistling, and despite the best efforts of the defense attorneys everyone walked the plank! But hot chocolate and cookies were consumed, and everyone had a great time. Our trip was truly an amazing adventure, and the greatest problem was that it had to end.

A word from the Skipper/Admiral

Sorry about the weather but you came through.

Nice job.

Remember your happy thought

And from Em's,
Great trip, thanks guys. Look forward to seeing you again in the future

