

~ Eight Bells ~

News from below decks, aboard
"Le Pecheur D'Etoiles"

www.bahamashighadventure.com

Crew 241, Norman, OK

Day 1 – Sat. June 30, 2007

Kathy Chinn's birthday

Crew 241 from Norman, Ok

The 14 of us boarded Pecheure, stowed our gear, were introduced to the rules of the ketch, and appointed a bugler before lunch. The galley crew were pleased to find the remains of a prisoner awaiting them in the galley and presented slices of him for lunch.

After eating lunch, the crew settled into bowline practice. Those comfortable with their bowlines thought they'd try their hand at fishing. Michael Grzybowski caught the first (and only) fish at approx. 2:45 pm.



The Pecheure pulled up anchor at approx. 4:40 pm, and set sail for Matt Lowe's Cay. Harris Potts spotted dolphins at about 5:30 pm. The dolphins joined us at the bow for a bit of play.

Nick Suit beat Jack Chinn in the first round of bowline competition.



Day 2 – Sun. July 1

Brian Chinn's birthday

Reveille at 6:30, swim tests before breakfast of eggs and pancakes. Cleaning took place after breakfast, and when all was ship-shape, the crew went snorkeling on Mermaid Cay. Four people volunteered to be towed behind the dinghy, five volunteered on the way back to the boat. The fish were spectacular, several snorkelers hand fed schools of brightly colored swimmers.

The two female members of the crew were seen in closer proximity to the seven male crew members today.

Our first sailing lesson took place after lunch. All 14 members were gung ho about learning the language of sailors, but the

adults were more eager than the youth to participate. We did manage to sail to Water Cay, where we went ashore for a dinner of hot dogs cooked over a campfire, fresh coconut collected on land, chips, and for those who wanted marshmallows. People were not the only ones feasting – the bugs were actively biting, and hermit crabs were seen crawling out of coconut shells by the hundreds.



Day 3 – Mon., July 2

After cleaning ship, and eating a breakfast of eggs and sausage, Capt. Del taught us the various methods of communication ship-to-ship and ship-to-shore. Jack Chinn was elected Captain. The entire crew then went ashore for exploring an abandoned construction site, both on land and in the water.

After lunch of tuna salad, leftover Mac & cheese, peanut butter & celery, and Tang, Capt Jack and his crew set sail for the first time to Baker's Bay. There was a quick snorkel trip and "amazing" Joy baths before a spaghetti dinner. The second round of the bowline competition took place with Nick Suit (the favorite) being eliminated in the first round. Garrett Sickles won the ice-cold Coca-Cola.

Day 4 – Tues. July 3

Breakfast consisted of pancakes and bacon, and those who were ridiculously sun-burned got to eat first.

Shore leave today was a devastatingly long hike around a resort construction site to a snorkeling site at remarkable reef. As we arrived, dolphins were sighted quite close to the beach. The weather was overcast, and the water was getting choppy, the dolphins quickly headed out to sea.

Before lunch, the crew took the opportunity to jump off the galley roof. After lunch, we had an abandon ship drill. We learned that a Coast Guard raft certified to hold 12 persons barely held eight.

Time to set sail for Baker's Bay. Unfortunately, Capt Jack has been almost completely incapacitated. We did manage to make it without further mishap, and we

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enjoyed a simply outstanding stew made by Admiral Del.

Day 5 – Wed. July 4

Rain at 6:20 rendered 6:30 reveille mute. Breakfast was pancakes & bacon, then we were off to Great Guana Harbor. It was quite a hike to Nippers Restaurant for Coke's and burgers.

This was the first opportunity we had for souvenir shopping.

Setting sail today was a fiasco. The boat had been dressed before heading to shore, and while undressing the ship a halyard was lost. Admiral Del had to go up the mizzen mast to restring the halyard. The raising of the sails was such a mess that they were dropped and re-raised for the practice. The weather was uncooperative, so the jibs were dropped and the engine started to aid in transport. Pirate night was an incredible amount of fun! The crew will be talking about that for years!

Day 6 – Thurs. July 5

While breakfast of French toast with cinnamon sugar was being served, a fight broke out on deck. A morning on land in Hope Town was enjoyed by the entire crew; the shops were easier to find, and the feel of the town was a lot friendlier than Great Guana

Lunch was made up of leftovers, which seemed to be well received.

Sailing went very smoothly today – there was plenty of wake due to increased boat traffic. Dramamine was offered, but declined. We arrived safely in Marsh Harbour, enjoyed a wonderful chili dinner, and after dinner entertainment was unique. The adults entertained in costume, then the final bowline competition took place. Nick Suit beat Taylor Wenzel in the final round, winning the handmade bracelet. Plenty of music and dancing followed.



Day 7 – Fri. July 6

Intense cleaning was the order of the morning, followed by a very welcome breakfast of Honey Buns and cereal. Presentation of patches and awards will take place after Eight Bells in handed out to all.

