

~ Eight Bells ~
 News from below decks aboard
 Le Pecheur D'Etoiles
www.bahamashighadventure.com

Troops 324

July 19th 2007

Saturday the 14th begun our journey on the *Le Pecheur D'Etoiles*. We flew in on charter planes and boarded the boat in the early afternoon. Shortly after boarding we met Capt. Del, M's, and the notorious Capt. Jack Spatula. The first day went quite quickly as it was nearly over when we boarded. A few instructions about the boat and how things were to work, and we were off to bed.

Day two was an interesting wake. Reveille was at 6:30, but from the lack of Josh's bugling skills we were late to get up. Turns out air doesn't wake many people. Sunday was a busy day for the plank. Kelly and Brad were both caught whistling early and were forced to walk.



Zach Houston was also caught but refused to take off his clothes, and was shortly thrown over the side. We began our first lessons on Pirates and snorkeled Mermaid reef before the day was done.

Monday brought the lecture on communication before heading into Mon O War for a while.

Not much to the town but the ice cream shop was great. From Man O War we headed to Baker's Bay. This, by far, was the best swimming and snorkeling done all trip. After a fore-warning about the workers in the bay we headed in to snorkel. Shortly after we arrived and began to snorkel we were confronted and threatened by the "head" of security. All that aside we were able to gather some wood for a fire and cook hot dogs and marshmallows for dinner and dessert.



Baker's Bay was the biggest treasure trove for sea biscuits, conch shells, and other sweet treasures. Once back to the boat for the night we

did thorns and roses as Capt. Del expressed his disgust for Jimmy Buffett. We also held nominations for Captain of the ship before going to bed.

Tuesday was by far the best day for snorkeling. We headed to the other side of Bakers Bay to snorkel on the barrier reef. The reef was astounding, but the walk there and back was tough. We were motored to the beach, but after being banned from the inland part of the island we were forced to walk the whole way around. It was worth it. The views from the beach, sand fighting, and exploring both reefs made the day one for all of us to remember.



The sad part about the day, however, was that the reef may not be there much longer. After walking the whole way back around the island and over the coral we dropped our stuff at the boat and headed into Fishers Bay for a look around. Small Bohamian town what can I say. After sailing over to Fisher's Bay we went to bed excited as tomorrow was to be Pirate Day.

Wednesday 6:00 reveille extra early for an extra special day. We all came up with our own pirate names as we began the day. Kellie – No Name, Mike – Crusty, Brad – Dreaded Whistler, Jack – Cookie, Jason – The Hood, Justin – PBJ Pretty Boy Justin, Josh – Mopsie, Brian – Japper Jaws, Spencer – Baby Powder Barry, Zach B. – Ted Night, Jake – Shithead, Zach H. – One Eyed Mike, and Capt. Jack was Captain Jack Spatula. Early that morning the parents were shipped off to a strange island as the boys set the sails. Soon the William H. was in sight for an attack.



As we approached the William H. Capt. Del took the wheel as all the boys on the deck hid for a surprise attack. Once we could see the whites of their eyes everyone jumped out and

began pelting the shipmates with everything we had. One quick pass and we turned around for another go. With Justin, Spencer, and Zach filling and tying the balloons the ammo was nearly endless. Battered and severely beat down the William H. hobbled to anchor for the night, meanwhile the triumphant Pecheur sailed on. The shout for anchors away was soon heard. After dropping the anchor we headed ashore in search of treasure. Meeting the parents I mean natives on the island they had maps and clues to help us find the treasure. After much work and deliberation we found the key in the middle of the island and we took it back to the ship to claim our treasure (a much earned coke and candy). That night we stayed in Water Key as the festivities got under way. For dinner was Salmagundi and potatoes. After stuffing our faces from the evening meal we picked our costumes for the night. Each of us had to pick out a unique costume and come up with a story about it.



That night we were judged on our costumes and stories to see which one of us was most pirate-like. Mopsie, the most pirate of them all won a Turk's head bracelet. Shortly after being judged on our pirate attire and story we were judged on our pirate crimes for the week. All were found guilty so at 10:00 at night everyone had to walk the plank. It was a great end to a great day.

Thursday morning we awoke to a lecture on safety and what to do when the boat is in trouble. This lecture was just right for the day because we had run out of fresh water, and turns out we were in big trouble. We were able to make it to Marsh Harbor to refill on water before heading to Mermaid reef for a snorkel. As tonight is the last night it seems only right to finish with the bowline competition. Though a fierce battle with everyone becoming better through the week Justin retains his title as the bowline champ. It has been a great week, and to cap off the newsletter I see it only fit to close in the words of our pirate theme song.

*We are a pirate crew
 The scourge of the seven seas
 If you see us coming
 You better let us be
 Cause far and wide you'll here our cry
 AARGH!*