

I told many of you i would send an update on the trip when I could so here it is. . .  
I'm sitting on the Porpoise just off Lahina in Maui. We made landfall in Hilo, Hawaii on May 31st after 23 days at sea.

For any of you who want a more detailed and entertaining account of the offshore portion let me know and I'll email you some journaling Julie's dad (who is a much better writer than me) did.

Anyways, most of you probably heard that I got pretty seasick the first couple days. On leaving Cape Flahtery to head offshore we almost immediately encountered 25 km winds and what us newbies considered big seas. Jack, who was our experienced guide said they were 'average'. Within an hour I was vomiting over the side and spent the next 24hrs lying on deck under a down blanket. The night was freezing but I chose cold and wet over being down below and even sicker. After 3 days I was somewhat back to normal although it probably took me a week and a half until the underlying queasiness disappeared. Those first three days were rather hellish but I wouldn't hesitate to do it again for the experience of being offshore.

The biggest thing that caught us all (except for jack) by surprise but probably shouldn't have was how much the pitch and roll of the boat affects every tiny aspect of everyday life. From getting in out of bed (over the lee cloths), to sleeping, to changing clothes (which doesn't happen nearly as much as it should), to cooking and doing dishes, to going to the bathroom. everything is always moving and you are always in danger of being thrown across the cabin or having some unsecured object crashing to the floor. Making and drinking coffee every morning was an epic feat.

The other difficulty is lack of sleep. Captain John (Julie's dad), Jack (70 year old salt), Matt (My brother in law), and took rotating night shifts. (8pm-11pm, 11pm-2am, 2am-5am, and 5am to 8am), the main objective being to stay on course and avoid the odd freighter (of which over 23 days we saw 5. . . and no other sign of human life). At first the night shifts were freeeezzzziiinnng. . . that was another surprise. . . how cold it is out there. long johns, fleece pants, cargo pants, windbreaker, heavy weather overalls, wool undershirt, hoody, windbreaker, heavy weather jacket, two pairs of socks, gloves, toque, i could barely waddle my way on deck and still felt the chill.

Thankfully, every night got a bit warmer and by time we hit baja latitude we were doing night watches in shorts and a t-shirt and those watches were some of the most amazing experiences. Warm trade winds, the boat surfing down big swells, amazing stars. Pretty incredible. All that aside, even apart from the rolling off the boat you never get a full night sleep because it is always interrupted at some point by those three hours on deck and every night your shift moved forward three hours so you never get into a regular schedule. . . but that's how it had to be because who wants the 2-5 shift for 23 days?

So, I'm sure you're thinking what did you do with yourself all day? Well, like I said, doing the littlest task is a major undertaking and everything takes 5-10 times as long as it does on the unmoving ground. so time at the helm, sail changes, making meals and cleaning up after them, napping, maybe a chore (cleaning up the boat, fixing or upgrading something), and happy hour really did take up most of the daylight hours. Not nearly as much time for playing guitar or reading (which even by the end would still make me queasy if I did it too long) as I would have liked. Once we hit that Baja latitude a daily swim became part of the routine, another cool experience being swimming 1000 miles from land in any direction.

I never felt cooped up, or squirrly, or claustrophobic or bored. It's very peaceful out there and you eventually just get into a rhythm. By the time Hilo was a couple days away I felt like I could easily go another 3 weeks. . . other than really wanting to see Julie and Kai who met us there the day after we arrived.

We spent a week in Hawaii doing some exploring, volcanoes, Waipeo valley, the observatories of Mauna Kea. The highlight of the Hawaiian part of the trip (other than seeing Julie and Kai again of course), was sitting in Kailua bay in Kona where every morning for 4 days spinner dolphins would come visit the boat and we would jump in and swim/snorkel with them. we thought they must be there all the time but one of the dolphin tour boats that would show up shortly after the dolphins said that was not the case. .

After a week exploring the Big Island we sailed across the channel to Maui where we are right now and will be for another week before we head over to Oahu and then on to Kauai. . . Then back out to sea.

Here are some pics if you're interested

<http://picasaweb.google.com/chrismoerman/BCToHawaii2010#>

hope you're well. i don't have reliable access to internet but I will check when I can. . . also, like I said, if you want a more detailed entertaining account let me know and I will pass them on.

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