

Travelogue of *Anania* from Tom & Sandy Stefanic

2009 - 2010

Subject: On the seas again

Oct 6 - Oct 22, 2009

Hi all,

We finally got underway in a big rush on Tuesday October 6, at 5pm with the bell clanging and horns blowing at the Nyack Boat Club.

We headed down to Atlantic Highlands to wait out the 40K winds predicted for Wednesday and they did come. Brave Jim Bemiss, an old Xerox buddy of Tom's, came out in the launch for a visit in a wind lull and left a few hours later when we thought there would be a lull but he had to jump to the rocking launch in 35K winds.

We had great North wind to sail down the Jersey coast and made it to Cape May by midnight on Thursday.

After that a perfect South wind to go up Delaware Bay through the C&D Canal and into the Bohemia River.

From there we made it to Annapolis by noon on Saturday in time to get settled in Weems Creek and go out for a nice dinner. We got in a day at the boat show and saw many cruising friends some of whom work the show.

It's been wet and cold since then. Nights are in the low 40's and the days not much better with the constant mist and rain.

We're trying to move down the Chesapeake as fast as we can to get to warmer weather. Going fast is not problem. We've had steady N NW wind which is perfect for sailing but not so good with the temperatures.

Annapolis to Deltaville VA then Great Bridge VA and on to Buck Island at the head of Albermarle Sound through to the Pungo River in NC. Still COLD! This leg of the ICW takes us through the Alligator River/Pungo Canal. A very straight cut with 2 bridges. We were traveling with a boat from Canada since Great Bridge on their first trip down with only 1 years experience. As we touched base with them occasionally on the radio Mike expressed his concern about the Wilkerson Bridge which is the only bridge with less than 65' clearance. With the north winds driving the tide it was something of a concern since their mast was 63.6 ft with the antennas above that. Ours is about 63' with antennas. As we went through the first bridge which is 65' they just made it.

As we approached the Wilkerson and the tide board indicated just just 64' Tom discussed with Mike his options.

Turn back or heel the boat (which is tipping is over for you land lubbers) which lowers the mast. So Tom suggested filling the dinghy with water, hoisting it slightly off the water to create a heel. Mike did that but we could tell it wasn't enough. So we suggested pushing the boom out and hanging off of it. So now we had Mike hanging off the end of the boom, Lorraine his wife who never sailed steering the boat and their two young sons hanging on the rail to port. We waited on the other side praying and they gently edged through. We could see that they would make it but as Lorraine steered off to the side the top of the mast hit the hanging center light of the bridge. Fortunately the light was on a pivot and moved and we all cheered. I felt so sorry for their ordeal that I invited them to dinner for comfort food..linguine with meatballs and sausage that I knew the boys would eat.

Finally, on October 20th we saw the sun and since then the days have been sunny and warm in the high 60's with today possibly going up to 80. Love this North Carolina.

From the Pungo we went to Oriental and then on to New Bern.

Unfortunately there is no Cruisers Reunion this year as the organizers for the past 4 years could not find someone to carry it on. We're in New Bern anyway since Tom loves the dentist here and schedules his cleaning. We're spending a few days with friends who live here and then we'll be off again.

Since WIFI is so accessible I've decided to send these emails from this address. You can reply here and send attachments and whatever when we use the [anania.taswel@gmail](mailto:anania.taswel@gmail.com) address.

Sandy, Tom & Sailin Waylon

Subject: North Carolina and Beyond

Log II

October 23 - November 29, 2009

After Tom's dentist appointment in New Bern we moved down the Neuse River to Northwest Creek Marina in Fairfield Harbor. This is an area of New Bern where all the northerners are herded when they come down here to look for housing. It's a huge development with canals and golf courses and tennis and the marina.

Coming here was like the first taste of the Bahamas where there are many boats all getting ready to go.

We still had some work to do on the boat so it was a good stop.

I went up our 62' mast for the first time to rig a new spinnaker halyard. After pulling Tom up last year I thought it was easier to go up for this unskilled labor job and let Tom experience the pull...he found out not so easy the last 15 feet....maybe an electric winch is in our future. It wasn't a bad trip up and once there it did take 3 tries for Tom to fish the end out inside the mast as the wind was gentle swaying the mast but the worst part was coming down. Tom is letting me down a couple feet at a time giving me time to adjust the safety line and Waylon decides to jump ship diverting Tom's attention, then the dogs on boats start barking diverting Tom's attention. Believe me when I tell you that when you're more than 60 feet above the water you want the person bringing you down to pay full attention to you! All ended well with only a rip in my jeans that caught on something as I was sliding down the last 5 feet.

Friday night was movie night in Oriental so Skip & Cherylle of Eleanor M (who just purchased a home there) picked us up and we went to dinner and a movie. The movie theater had folding chairs, was \$5.00 with free popcorn and wine and included a Bugs Bunny cartoon, WC Fields short, and Buffy the Vampire Slayer. At first we were a little skeptical but the 10 cruiser people there along with local movie buffs with a great sense of humor made the night.

So with smiles on our faces we went back to the boat and prepared to leave for Charleston in the morning.

We left the dock and did the ICW to Beaufort NC then out that inlet for the overnight to Charleston.

With 25-30K winds dead astern we flew down the Atlantic. We averaged 7.4K which is great down wind, the slowest point of sail. We picked up on VHF radio 2 other boats making the run so we had someone to check in with to make the watches more interesting. These coastal runs usually have Navy boats about and this trip was no different. We're convinced that they use us as training targets because it seems we always have to call them because they head straight for us.

We entered Charleston Harbor at 6:30 pm. The weather has been rainy but we still had some boat projects that needed to get down so we stayed on board the next 2 days planning to treat ourselves to a great downtown Charleston restaurant. Instead we went to a local restaurant and had Alligator tails for an appetizer. We were pleasantly surprised at how good they were. Breaded in a special blend, fried (of course, we're in the south) and served with an unusual sauce it was a treat. The rest of dinner was great too.

We're off shore again with the wind coming out of the north with no seas and warm dry weather at last. This leg to the GA/FL border is slower with only 15-20K winds and averaging on 5.5K but it's a nice gentle sail.

We anchored in St. Mary's, GA, spent a day with Bonnie & Roger who are "land" based now and then moved over to Cumberland Island. Cumberland Island is an 18 mile long National Seashore Park with only 10% of it developed.

90% owned by the Thomas Carnegie family it has his estate (which burned down) and 6 homes of their 8 children.

The estate is still partially there and the wild horses, boars, snakes and such still abound. To get to the beach you walk through a path beneath a beautiful canopy of live oaks draped in moss and

underneath them the ground is thick with palmettos. A nice stop and if you're so inclined you can camp here for a week @ \$4.00 per person.

Crossing the river, we spent Tom's birthday in Fernandina Beach on Amelia Island, FL.

We left Fernadina at 6:30am made it to Cape Canaveral Inlet by 8am the next morning then did the Indian River to Vero Beach.

Vero Beach was party time. We have so many friends now on the move or living here that it was one social event after another. We had breakfasts out, lunches out, dinners out, a 40th wedding anniversary, pot lucks at the marina and volleyball days and poker nights. Al & Evelyn from Rio who are from the boat club drove over and we had a wonderful day with them. Since we stayed 3 weeks it seemed that every week a new group passed through. The 2nd week Tom had a whole volleyball team from George Town and they went to the beach to tune up their skills. Sounds like all the time was fun but we did manage to fix the wind generator and do other jobs around the boat. As usual Tom went to other boats to help them with their projects.

Finally ready to leave, we headed out the Ft Pierce Inlet, motor sailed to Lk Worth Inlet and docked at Eileen & Bill's for Thanksgiving week. I cannot write enough about how great it is to be here in their backyard with the house steps away and use of Bill's car, their freezer and Ei's Costco card.

We gave thanks on Thursday, enjoyed a fabulous dinner with good company and left on Friday.

We had an uneventful crossing of the Gulf Stream and the Northwest Providence Channel. Every year it amazes me that we're sailing over 2,600 feet of water. The night is clear with a bright half moon with just a few bumpy waves as we crossed the axis of the stream. The wind was NW and although the rule is don't cross with any North in the wind as it can kick up nasty seas across the Stream it was not bad as a down wind sail, plus the wind only blew at 12-14K so we had to motor sail 3/4 of the 90 some odd miles to Lucaya.

We left Lk Worth Inlet at 5:30pm and arrived at the Bell Channel into Lucaya at Grand Bahama Island by 8am.

So we're here in the Bahamas, will be for the next several months.

We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving, we know we're thankful and have fun in the upcoming Holiday Season!

Sandy, Tom & Sailin Waylon