

FRONT PAGE LOG – Bahamas 2008

- below are most all the notes that I have received from **FRONT PAGE** since they headed for the Bahamas on Friday March 21st ..

FRONT PAGE Report - Greetings from the Bahamas - 4/2/2008 9:29:41 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time

Hello to all,
We're in a lovely nature preserve on a mooring ball. The anchorage is protected from the east winds that are blowing daily from 15-25 mph. The anchorage has a total of 22 mooring.

The aqua blue water, sand beaches and small land trails lead to many ruins where the Loyalists settled in the late 1700's.

We've had some daily repairs.... we make water every three days and have adequate time to read and explore. Kathy, also known as the Discovery Channel, keeps us informed as to history, sites to go to, and info about nature that is new to us.

Kathy went up to the office with Kim yesterday and fed the Bananquits (small wren like birds). At one time there were nine beautiful little birds with bright yellow chests sitting on her hand or flying nearby waiting their turn at the sugar.

The satellite TV went out (Kathy is cheering). This leaves us with a three minute weather report each morning at 9 a.m and the internet. We can get underground weather on the internet.

Jim and Gene have taken to watching the beach goers instead of TV or the stock market.

Our travel companions (Kim and Jim) know the area well. Kathy painted our boat name on a piece of driftwood for posting on a trail peak (Boo Boo Hill). Boats that visit the island and park post a sign and resign it everytime they come back. The hill is named for a place to leave broken boat parts. Mounting the sign with stainless steel screws will be one of the projects for the day. Tomorrow we cruise to another mooring field in the park.

Last entertainment was watching the 90's movie, "Captain Ron". Movie time on the Front Page is 6 p.m. with popcorn. Bedtime is around 8:30 a.m.

Warderick Wells island is also a station for Royal Bahamian Defense Force. They use a small armed crat with a crew of six. They patrol waters for poaching, drug dealing and general law enforcement.

This is truly a quiet life style in a remote and natural environment.

Have a great day.
Gene, Kathy, Kim and Jim

FRONT PAGE Report - Greetings from the Bahamas - 3/31/2008 2:25:43 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time

Dear Family and friends,
Nine days out and we are doing fantastically well. The beauty here is outstanding. The water ranges from clear turquoise to deep Cerulean Blue with a thousand shades between.

After four days in Bimini we went to CHub Cay for one night. Trip went well. 2-3 ft waves. Kim and I went to beach and found lots of green nerites= a very unusual, small (less than 1/2 inch) shell. We left for Nassau about 9:30 a.m. and the waves and wind intensified as we travelled. It was quite bumpy but not the worst we have experienced. Everyone was very careful as we moved around the boat.

One night in Nassau was enough. We were successful in finding a new macerator to replace the one Gene burned out by accidentally switching the wrong switch after the holding tank was empty. Another treat in Nassau was the marina was across the street from a shopping center that had a nice grocery store (along with several others) and a DAIRY QUEEN. Guess what we had for dinner that night!!

The trip to Allens was great. The sun was warm and wind was gentle. After putting down the anchor we had lunch then went ashore to see the iguanas. There was a naturalist there so we got a lot of information. A tender from another boat(yacht) pulled in and in the course of conversation we discovered four or five mutual friends, including Skip Johnson from WBL.

Our next stop(later the same day) was at Normans Cay. It was only about 3 p.m. when we got there so we climbed in the dinghy and saw the crashed two engine plane, climbed up to the vacated resort and walked down the road to the house where a drug king pin had taken over and evicted the occupants in the 70's.

From there we went around to the beach and Norman Cay Club. A delightful spot for a Bahama Mama and some seviche. Gene wanted conch salad but they didn't have any. This was a great substitute. Got back to the dinghy just as the sun was setting over the water.

The following day we anchored the boat at Shroud Cay. Trips to the beach, through the center of the island on a creek which lead to the other side and climbing a small hill to look out at both sides of the island was the exercise of the day. The view was breath taking.

Bella LUna, a couple who left Legacy Harbour in Dec. heard us on the radio. They came over to visit, then we met them in the creek. Later they came over for drinks and Lasagne dinner. Fun to see them

The next morning Chris and Alana came over to join us on a dinghy trip down to Highbourne Cay. We climbed to the Loyalist ruins, took lots of photos and came back down to enjoy the beach. Moving to another beach we found a trail that had been cut through the brush to the other side of the island. Again the views were breath taking. After walking down the beach about a 1/2 mile we noticed some large black rain clouds approaching. Our beach exploration was cut short to get back to close windows on the big boats before the rain hit.

After lunch we put the dinghy up and moved the Front Page to a mooring ball inside Exuma Park, almost in front of the park headquarters. The center of the natural harbor is very shallow so the boats are moored around the edge in deep water. There is a reef to drift snorkle, a large sperm whale skeleton on the shore, picnic area and clear, beautiful water. Paradise. Volunteers at the park are doing work such as building a roof for a Chickee Hut, building stairs, repairing motors, etc. It is truly a gorgeous place.

This morning Kim went to work at the office to help out and get free mooring for us for a couple of days. The wind is blowing pretty good but we are protected. We will be here for about three days so will have internet access.

Wish you were all here with us. Would love to share this beautiful place with you. Everyone has told us it is better than the Abacos, we now agree whole heartedly.

All for now.
Love,
Kathy (Mom, Grandma)

FRONT PAGE Report - 3/26/2008 5:54:59 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time

Dear Marv,
We arrived in Chub Cay today about 4 pm. Sun shone through a few clouds but temps are warming. Waves were two to three. Good trip. The marina looks great but there are very few boats here.

Plan to leave here tomorrow and head to Nassau for fuel before we head on to the Exumas on Fri.

All is well. The 8K generator quit today but the guys already have it fixed.

We are loving the blue skies and blue waters.

Kathy, Gene, Jim and Kim

FRONT PAGE Report - 3/25/2008 2:38:47 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time

Dear family and friends,

We had a lovely Easter inspite of rain and winds here in Bimini. MOnday we took the dinghy down and did some exploring. Couldn't go out in the ocean to see a sunken plane because of high waves so came back in and explored to the opposite end of the island. Beautiful blue water. In the afternoon we rented a golf cart and explored the tiny roadways (more like sidewalks). Checked the whole island out in two hours. Lots of new development on one end. Lots of poverty.

Did some shell and sea glass hunting. Today we are staying close to home. Checking weather hoping that tomorrow we can leave for Chub Cay. Still cloudy and windy today....13 ft seas in Gulf Stream. We got across on the right day. Tomorrow we have about 80 miles to Chub.....only about 10 in the Gulf Stream, the rest in the tongue of the ocean and up on the Bahama bank. Waves should settle down to 4ft. IF they don't we stay another day.

So far schedules still hold. Will keep you posted when we get to another site with email. SKYPE so far hasn't been to successful. Tried calling Don and Julie....no luck! Paul and Lindsay couldn't hear us but we heard them clearly.

All for now.

Love,

Gene and Kathy

FRONT PAGE Report - March 23, 2008

Rain and thunder graced the early morning hours as we made the decision to attend a church much later than originally thought. Pancakes and bacon filled the empty tummies on board. The rain let up and a little sunshine appeared long enough to walk up the hill to the Wesleyan Methodist Church for their 11 a.m. service. The pastor was a volunteer here for six months of the year. Others volunteer to fill the pulpit for varied lengths of time through out the rest of the year. The small congregation was very friendly and presented us with a Bimini Boaters Guide as we waited for the service to begin. As the service let out the sun shone long enough for us to walk back to the boat.

Everyone was on their own for lunch but ham and potato salad and baked beans will be served for dinner about 7 pm.

Low tide between 4-5 should provide a great opportunity to find some good sea glass.

FRONT PAGE Report - March 22, 2008

Early weather forecasts were favorable for crossing today as thunderstorms and winds will increase on Sun and Mon.

Departed Marathon at 7:28 am. with partly cloudy skies and waves of 2-3 feet. Headed up Hawk's Channel to Isamorada area. From there we cut over the reef and headed for Bimini.

Observed a tow pulling a 150 – 200 ‘ decommissioned Navy communication ship being towed to deep water to be sunk and become a fish habitat.

Not to many boats around but the seas were not uncomfortable. Speed increased as we entered the Gulf Stream.

Got into Bimini at 3:30 p.m. and found dockage at Bimini Bluewater Marina. About an hour after we docked the rain began. Kim and Kathy were thankful for the rain as it did a tremendous job of washing the boat down. Gene and Jim went over to clear customs and get the fishing permit. There was a parade with kids decked out with balloons and decorated bikes and golf carts down by the customs house.

Cocktails and appetizers were served when the guys got back. Dinner was chicken on rice with green beans. Excellent.

Mexican train dominoes occupied the evening hours. Kim claims the championship for the evening.

FRONT PAGE Report - March 21, 2008

Temp 58 degrees
Partly Cloudy skies
Full Moon

The captain rose at 5:30 a.m. filled with anticipation of departure. The full moon glowed over the marina an hour later as Jim and Kim Townsend arrived. Marv brought over the latest virtual bouy reports. By 6:45 friends began to arrive to assist with untying lines and to wish the Front Page Bon Voyage. Promptly at 7 a.m. the captain blew the horn to signal leaving the dock. Mary K , John, untied lines, Betty blew the conch horn, Marv took photos and Ron and Sandy waved from B dock. Paula on Tin Man waved from the back of Tin Man and Katie on D dock waved and wished us well as we rounded the corner to leave Legacy Harbour. The sun was spreading a lovely peachy pink in the Eastern sky.