

# October Fall Cruise

What do they say about the best laid plans of mice and men? That seemed to be a theme of the TSC Fall Cruise. But even when plans go awry, cruising the glorious Sea of Cortez is bound to be a good time! Perhaps it's a well-kept secret how gorgeous this area is, because this cruise was a small affair with just two boats. Steven Durand and wife Francie were on board the Hunter 310 Second Sun, with dog Lilly and grateful guest Deanna Keahey. Scott and Ellie Carroll sailed aboard Finally 2, a Catalina 26. Richard Sebastian planned to be the cruise director but could not make it. That left this trip in Steven's hands. At the pre-cruise dinner meeting, he promised "We will leave no boat behind." Prophetic words!

Sunday morning, we left San Carlos, motoring in light air under a dazzling blue sky, heading north for San Pedro Bay. When Francie's keen sense of smell detected something amiss, Steven dove into the engine compartment, where he quickly diagnosed and repaired a broken hose clamp. Meanwhile, the wind picked up, delivering some fun upwind sailing to our destination. San Pedro is a huge, beautiful bay, with a long beach framed by multicolored rock walls. After dropping anchor, we all went ashore and hiked across a low rise to another delightful beach, totally deserted.



The Second Sun folks provided the catch of the day, pulling in seven fish over the trip. Steven said "Francie, Lilly and I go fishing at sunset in the dinghy. Francie caught a 4-lb Skip-Jack, that took her 10 minutes to land with the light rig." The next morning dawned bright and calm, with glowing hills reflected in the glassy water. It was perfect for exploring by kayak, while pelicans watched from the rocks. After breakfast, the plan was to continue north to Caleta Venencia, but Finally's motor wouldn't start. Troubleshooting showed the culprit to be a dead battery. Our resident engineer, Steven, rigged up a small solar panel, in the hopes that its trickle of current could charge the battery by the next morning.



Adjusting plans, we all piled aboard Second Sun, for a lovely day sail up to Serimuerto for beach walks, snorkeling, and lazing on board enjoying divine views. Back in San Pedro that evening, everyone gathered for a group dinner, with good food, good company, and lively conversation. The next morning, all fingers were crossed. Neither solar nor superstitions did the trick, though, and Finally's engine refused to start. So, fulfilling those early words, Second Sun towed Finally out of the bay. With no breeze to assist, we kept towing all the way

back to San Carlos harbor, where they dropped anchor. A kind neighbor offered a generator, so they could charge the battery, start the motor, and make it back to the dock.

Since we returned early, Second Sun decided to make the most of the time remaining. "Cruise part 2" included some fun sailing and an overnight in Lalo Cove, beneath the twin peaks of Tetakawi. With the full moon shining across the water, it was a delightful anchorage for the last night. Steven summed things up: "Cruising north of San Carlos is always great. I did not realize Richard was grooming Second Sun to become a cruise director. We must have done alright, since we were able to overcome all issues and have a great cruise." Scott's last words: "Good tow line - don't leave home without it!"



by Deanna Keahey