

2012 SPRING CRUISE

Loretta Peto



We had a very relaxing two week cruise to the Midriff Islands. We started off with four boats, but one had to turn back after a few days due to mechanical problems.

Our first stop was Bahia San Pedro, followed by Las Cocinas, both of which are on the mainland of México. We entered the Midriff Island at Isla

Tiburón, off the coast from Bahia Kino, at Bahia de Los Perros. From there we went to South Willard East for a couple nights, but were driven off by the flies. We learned that fly swatters are a very valuable tool to have on a boat.

We attempted to go to Isla Las Animas and stay in the northwest anchorage, which is opened to the west, but unfortunately the wind was coming from the west. A leeward shore did not appeal to us. Isla Salsipuedes is just a short distance from Isla Las Animas but the anchorages that sheltered from a west wind require both a bow and stern anchor and not all the boats were equipped with a stern anchor. So we headed to Isla Partida. Isla Partida is a fascinating anchorage, totally barren, but the birds from Isla Raza fly in late in the day to have dinner. It was amazing to watch hundreds of birds flying and diving for fish – both the birds and fish spurred mouthwatering thoughts for the feline crew on Halfcat. We had wanted to stay a couple nights in Isla Partida but the currents from the San Lorenzo channel that curved around the north peninsula bounced the boats around so much on anchor that we left after one night.

After crossing the San Lorenzo channel, where we had to bundle up with several layers of sweatshirts and coats during the day because the temperature dropped significantly, we ended up in Puerto Don Juan, about 5 miles outside of Bahia de Los Angeles. We spent a few days in this much protected anchorage. We relaxed and hiked one day and then we went into Bahia de Los Angeles one day. We made the trip into the town on one boat because there is no area to park a boat and keep it safe from the katabatic winds that come up most afternoons. The cruisers got a taste of the tremendous hospitality of the Baja people as they roamed the town and had brunch.

The next stop was intended to be an anchorage in Bahia Las Animas, but the wind and waves were not from a direction that would have made that anchorage comfortable, so we diverted to what we thought would be a better place, Animas Slot. However, a rather large



catamaran occupied most of the anchorage and we thought that three boats would not be able to anchor there. So we went to San Francisquito. Unfortunately, the bees claimed one of the boats the next day and, given that we were close to the end of the cruise, two boats decided to head back to San Carlos the next day.

The remaining boat went to Santa Rosalia for a few nights to relax and then it headed back to San Carlos.

August monthly meeting will feature a full presentation of the trip.

Next Up – November 2021 Cruise to Baja

The next cruise will start after the Fall 2021 Regatta, November 2 or 3. We intend to visit Baja at San Marcos, Santa Rosalia, and possibly Bahia Concepción. This trip can be a short one (one week) for those with limited time or much longer if time is not an issue. For more information, contact Tom Bethard, ctbethard@hotmail.com.

