

Where are we now? Eucott Bay Hot Springs!



June 5, 2003

Where's Bella Bella?



Trip So Far

- May 10 to May 30 brought lots of storms and crazy weather. We had strong southerly winds which helped carry us North and allowed for some good sailing. But they also brought lots of rain and damp cold (even a few hail storms). The scenery more than made up for the weather



North Vancouver Island

Once we got further North, the weather changed directions and we started getting very strong winds from the North West. There were several days where we were unable to travel because the weather was so bad. We enjoyed seeing some of the smaller islands and towns along the way like Alert Bay, Pearse Islands Marine Park, Walker Island Group, but we were ready to cross the Queen Charlotte Sound which involves sailing into the open Pacific.



Crossing The Sound

- This was a big milestone for us (and our cat). We sailed to Walker Island Group and waited for a good weather window. The forecast predicted moderate winds from the South East (good for us) then decaying to light and variable winds. We pulled up anchor early and got a 1 to 2 knot push of current out past some of the famous spots like Pine Island. The swell was predicted to be 1 to 2 meters (3 to 6 feet) and they were right. Rising and falling slowly to the swells was pretty fun. Sherrell and the cat didn't even feel the least bit queasy. The winds however weren't as predicted. We didn't get to sail at all, because it was right dead ahead all day.



Famous Egg Island, the outermost point in the Pacific when rounding Cape Caution.

Penrose Island

- Next we stopped at a small island with a large bay inside it with several smaller bays. We went deep back into the interior of the island to a place our Guide Book called the “5 Windows Cove” (it is unnamed) and from the anchorage you can look out of 5 different tiny passages to open waterways. Some of them were so small we couldn’t even get the dinghy through it.

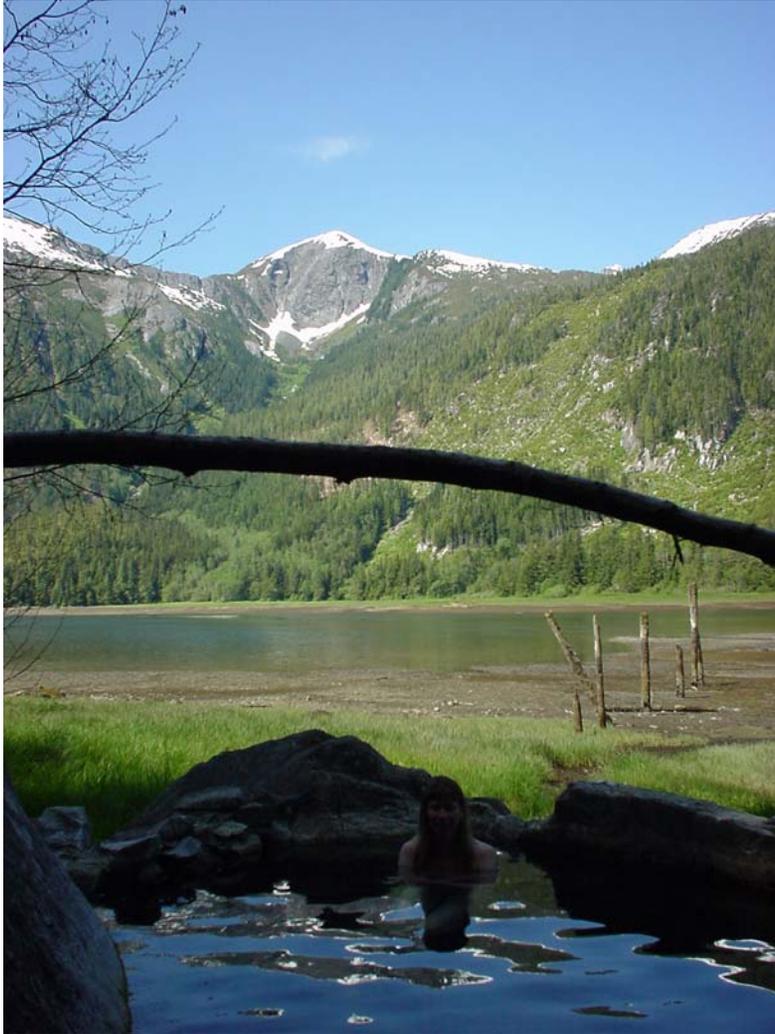


Codville Lagoon

- Heading North again we went to a remote marine park. As we motored through the narrow entrance, it slowly opened up to an expansive bay with a small island in the middle. The mountains surrounding it were old growth Cedar trees and a group of seals were sunning themselves on the rocks. We anchored with only one boat in the area. Surprisingly the first time we had to share an anchorage since the south part of Vancouver Island. It's getting crowded!



Eucott Bay!



- The words hot springs says it all. This spring is well out of the way of normal cruising traffic as most people bypass this little channel because it is a long U-Turn of 60 nm. We thought it would be perfect for us! It is indescribable to have this beautiful place all to ourselves. And how great it is that the summer weather has finally kicked in and the sun is shining.

Dean Channel & Eucott Bay (some scenes along the way)



Wildlife Along the Way



Baby Sunstar



Sea Cucumber



Anomies



Golden Eagle (others thought it was a young Bald Eagle)



"Teenage" Sunstar (they grow to 2-3 feet in diameter)



Lounging Starfish

Next?

- Well we have to head back to civilization (Bella Bella) to get some more water and perhaps do some laundry, but then begins the trip North again towards Prince Rupert and then Ketchikan.