



The First Voyage

Our new boat is done and ready for its first adventure! So many new things to learn, systems to figure out and of course the small detail of learning to dock and maneuver a 52' LOA boat.

Time to jump right in with a shake down cruise from La Conner to Roche Harbor for the Memorial Day weekend. Wednesday the 25th of May – Julie and I drove our trailer full of all our stuff off the old boat up to La Conner and started the process of filling up and organizing the new boat. Thursday the 26th of May we picked the kids up from school and drove up to La Conner where our boat was waiting on the dock. After an exciting first night on the boat we woke up Friday morning to Steve and Kurt from American Tugs, ready to run us through all the systems on the boat.

But first, Steve and Kurt had a special surprise! The boat needs to be christened before its first voyage, so they brought Champagne and a real life King Neptune (Thank you to Jim Freeman who played this important role). We had a great time, adults drinking at 9am, Sprite for the kids, and a christening ceremony for the toast. After a morning of information overload, it was time to shove off.

As the wise Capitan Ron once said “anything that’s going to happen is going to happen out there”

Steve was going to spend the weekend on Henry Island (right next to Roche Harbor) at a friend’s cabin so he hitched a ride with us. As we navigated our way through the islands Steve suggested we take Pole Pass (I’ve never been through) – a narrow little cut that doesn’t look big enough on the charts to transit. He said “I’ve done it hundreds of times” then promptly fell asleep on the settee. As we approached the pass – Steve still asleep – I wanted to be sure I was headed the right direction, running aground on our maiden voyage would not be good. Uhhh.. Steve, Uhhh... Steve, louder and louder until he popped up and said “Oh right, Pole Pass, Pole Pass”. We shot through the narrow cut without incident, the current pushing us faster and faster.

We arrived in Roche Harbor and of course our first slip assignment in the new boat was number 22! We spent the next 4 nights relaxing on our new boat trying to get used to all the new systems. We ran everything, trying to figure it all out and making sure everything worked properly. After getting the dinghy down using the crane we cruised through Mosquito pass to the English Camp. We hiked all the trails and explored the old buildings on the property.

We just couldn’t leave, so we decided to take the kids out of school and stay one more day. More hiking, working on the boat and organizing stuff on Memorial Day then on Tuesday morning we fired the engine up and took off headed back to La Conner.

We had a smooth run all the way back to La Conner where we had another opportunity to practice docking the boat. Everything went well as we left the boat for the factory to finish up a few details.

Our family is so thankful to be fortunate enough to create

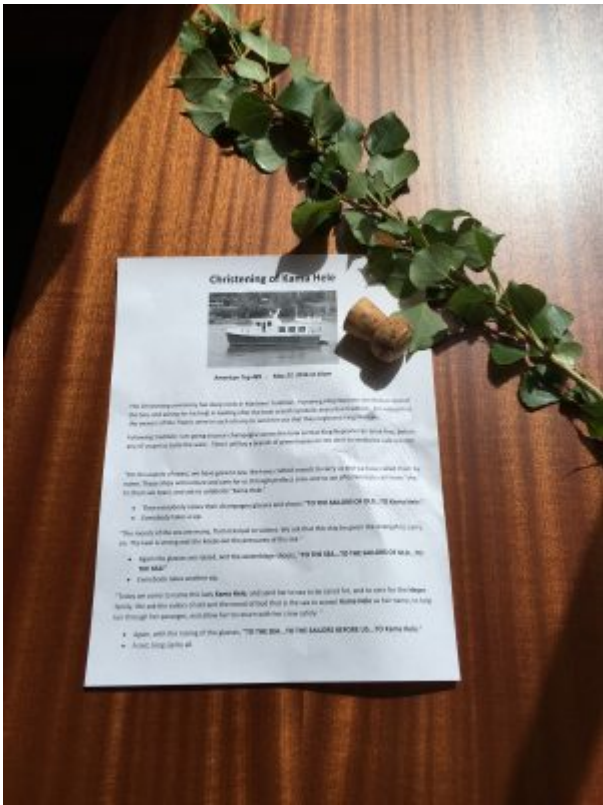
great memories on this amazing boat. Thank you to all who put so much work into the construction and design process!



Our trailer all packed up with our boating stuff off the old boat.



King Neptune christening the boat





Kids are loving their bunk





Our first slip assignment
in the new boat was 22! A
sign of great things to
come!

