



Back in the USA!

Leaving Sidney at 11:08am we bucked the current across the border back into the USA. Some Orca whales were in Haro Strait but unfortunately they did not want us to get a good look at them. All they would show us is a few fins sticking out of the water. Still pretty cool to see though.

When you cross the border in a boat your first stop must be a port of entry where agents check you back in. Our port of entry today was Roche Harbor on San Juan Island. Julie always gets super nervous dealing with the border protection agents after we had one experience where they drilled us with question after question in a tone that was just plain not very nice. Today was a different story. They were extremely nice and respectful although they did take our oranges. I'm sure there are some grumpy ones but these border protection agents do a great job and I'm thankful for strict policies that help keep our country safe.

After clearing customs we were assigned a slip at the Roach Harbor Marina. We backed into our slip at 1:15pm, 9.21nm traveled with the bow pointing west and no one in front of us. The sunset was going to be great from here and we felt so secluded in what is always a very busy marina.

It was off to lunch at the restaurant with the bees again

pestering us while we were eating. This time though the waiter brought over a fabric softener sheet and placed it in the center of our table. It sure worked, not another bee the rest of the meal! After lunch we all roamed around the marina going through all the shops, taking pictures in the garden and getting goodie bags from the candy store. The kids literally rolled around in the grass, pushing each other down the hill and giving horsey rides.

The kids and I went out to set the crab pots while Julie had some much needed time alone. As it got later in the evening we were distracted by the awesome sunset and Roche Harbor “colors” display that it got too dark to pull the crab pots. We were hopeful morning would bring an abundance given the long soak.

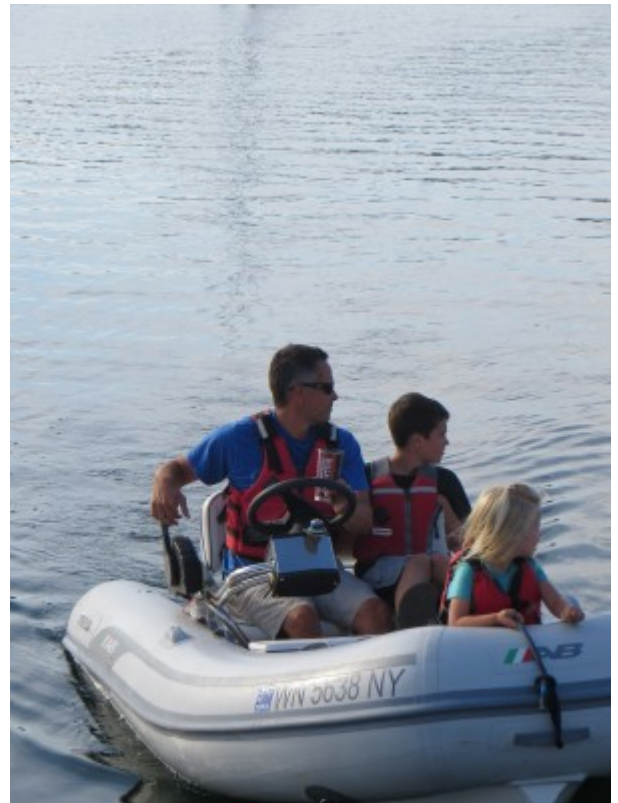
Trip Log – 259.07nm





The kids loving room to run around!







Quiet time on the boat.
Sometimes whatever it takes
for peace and quiet!



The view from our boat



Sidney

At 9:18am we untied from our mooring buoy at Sidney Spit for the 2.53nm passage to the town of Sidney. We tidied up the boat in their last slip that was just big enough for us. After getting settled in it was off the Rumrunners restaurant for some lunch. It's a great little pub right next to the marina with an awesome view of the water. The food was great, we highly recommend it, although Ava was in one of her "moods" and was pretty miserable to deal with.

With hopes of cheering her up we walked across the street to

the Salish Sea Aquarium. As you go into the aquarium doors open acting like you are going into a submarine. You stand in this small room as the doors close the floor starts shaking and screens on the ceiling and walls makes it feel like you are going under the water. It was an extremely nice well-done aquarium (although small) that focused solely on the Puget Sound and Gulf Islands. We got to see all kinds of interesting sea creatures and the kids had a great time! Best of all Ava thought she was really under water the whole time. It was so funny to hear her talk about it after. She loved it!

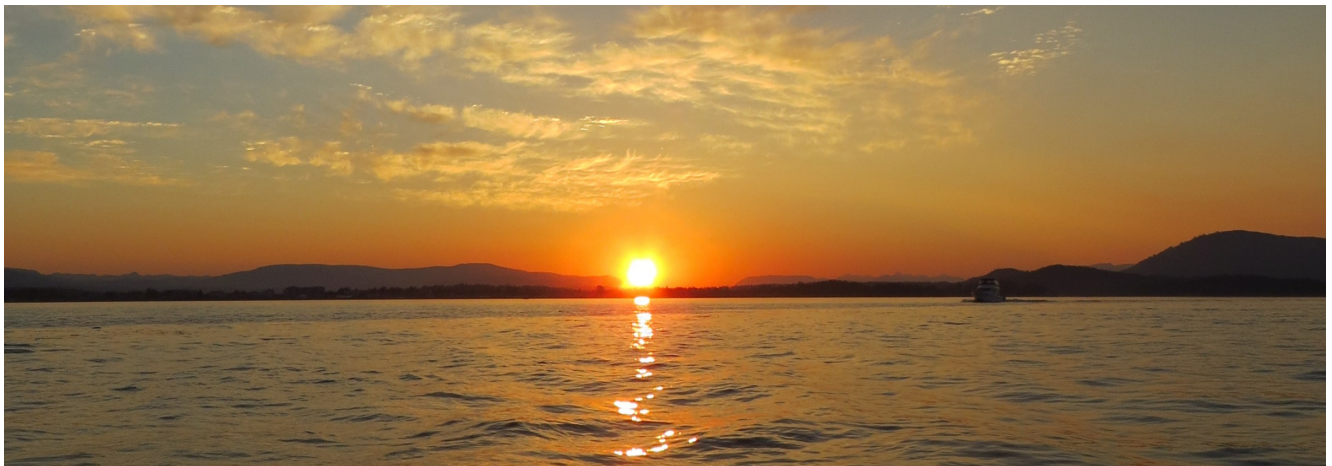
We had a great time waking through town, stopping at a little pizza place for a beer and picking up some new clothes for Julie and I. The town has a nice grocery store close to the marina so we stopped in and picked up some necessary items. Even better is that you can push their carts all the way down the dock back to your boat! That evening Skylar and I had a nice dock walk looking at all the boat

Trip Log – 249.86nm



Ava underwater at the
aquarium





The Spit

We left our mooring buoy in Montague at 10:35am bound for Sidney Spit. 13.60nm later at 1:45pm we arrived and tied up to a mooring buoy. Sidney Spit is a 1 mile long sand spit connected to Sidney Island extending north. At low tide the

whole spit is exposed but at high tide the middle of the spit is covered by water. When you are anchoring at low tide it feels somewhat protected but at high tide you look out across to the USA with not much in your way. It's a fun place to anchor and the sand beaches are awesome to explore.

We took off in the dinghy to explore the spit and surrounding island. At the beach we spent time throwing rocks at floating wood (trying to see who could hit it first) searching for sea glass, building driftwood forts and walking the beach.

As the sun went down Skylar and I took the dinghy out for some fishing. We stayed out until well after sunset having "guy talk". The sunset was awesome that night!

Trip Log – 247.33nm





The spit looking south
toward Sidney Island



