



## Zip-Tied

Thursday July 27<sup>th</sup> – Today we left our group and headed a short 3nm away to a no name bay we call “The Cut” to stay for a couple nights. We have seen this bay on previous trips, always wanted to stay there, but just haven’t done it yet.

This was the year, so we navigated the narrow entrance that opens up big enough for just a handful of boats. On the opposite end you can exit but its even narrower. You can make it through, even in the big boat but you need some local knowledge and it’s quite scary the first time you go through. However, the narrow entrance and small bay keeps things pretty quiet in there. In Skylar’s opinion the best thing about the bay is the rope swing that flings you off the rocks into the water.

After getting anchored and stern tied in the perfect spot Skylar took off in his kayak straight for the rope swing. After a low practice run he went higher as I warned him of the dangling rope below his feet. Caution to the wind he tarzaned off the rock but as he let go that little bit of rope below his feet just barely got caught on his leg flipping him chest first into the water. He emerged with a look of pain on his face and a little bit of “I guess you were right dad”. That

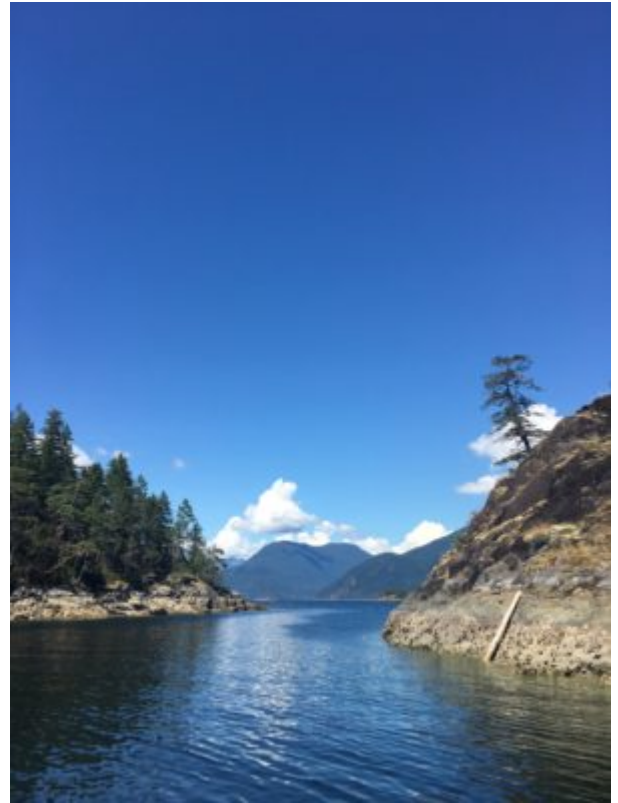
was the end of the rope swing that day but like all kids his age the pain goes away and he was right back at it again although a little more cautious.

We had a lot of fun at "The Cut". We took the kids tubing behind the dinghy and set the shrimp pots. Skylar loves to tube as fast as possible getting whipped all over the place. But Ava loves just cruising along at a moderate pace looking at all the sights; the look on her face is pure joy.

We lost the access door to one of our shrimp pots so I used a Rubbermaid bin lid and zip-tied it on the pot to fill the hole so the shrimp couldn't get out. We all went out and set the pots in 300 feet of water then gave them a 5 hour soak. Upon our return we pulled the one with the lid. Sure enough there were about 15 shrimp inside, but now, stupid me, I completely zip-tied the lid on not realizing that was the door to get the shrimp out! I didn't have anything to cut the zip ties and I wanted to put the pot back down anyway. So, one by one I pulled them through a little crack, while they poked my hands until I was bloody. Taking the pot back to the boat would have been way easier but I guess I provided some good entertainment because Julie and the kids couldn't quit laughing as I struggled.



Our little reader!



The view from our anchorage







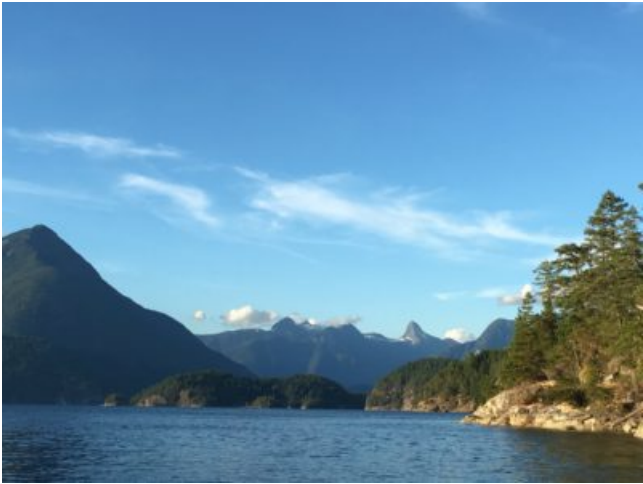




Skylar just before



his epic fail!









Jumping off the boat.







Awesome rope swing moment.



# No Match

Tuesday July, 25<sup>th</sup> – Its Skylar's birthday!!! Today Skylar turns 16 and we haven't even seen a car in days. He's gone through all the necessary drivers education training and passed all the tests with flying colors. Now all he has to do is go online and print out his temporary drivers license before his real license is mailed to him. These days, kids can get their license when they are 16 but can't have anyone in the car with them except family for 6 months after they get their license. He wanted the 6 months to start the day he turns 16 so we were equipped with a printer onboard but need cell or wifi to give us the connection to the DOL site.

The Octopus Islands didn't have any cell service so we departed the islands timing Hole in the Wall (another tidal rapids area) for slack water. Once we were through the rapids our cell signal lit up. I found the right website and hooked up the printer. They wanted his name; permit number and last 4 of his social security number. Crap, we had everything except the SS number! I looked on his passport and found what I thought was his SS number then entered it into the system. "Error... The information you entered does not match our records". I must have entered something wrong I thought. I entered the information again with the same result. Thinking somehow magically it would work, I entered the same obviously wrong information a couple more times. On the last try it locked me out saying there were too many attempts and I would have to try again later. Later?, I thought, what does that mean, 1 hour, 1 day, a week, what.

Skylar was ticked, he wanted his 6 months to start as soon as possible and now we didn't know when we could get the right info and try again. And it was all my fault, the number I was entering was not his SS number at all. I emailed DOL and got an automated response back that said they were backed up and



it was going to take "more than 24hrs to get back to me". What does that mean?!

Fast-forward... The next day I called work and got his SS number. I thought it was probably a 24hr lockout thing so just after 24hrs I entered it again with the same message "the information you entered does not match our records". Not wanting to get locked out again I waited until the next day so I could verify his SS number with Michelle who found his SS card at our house. I had it wrong again!! Now, with everything entered correctly we printed out his driver's license. Sorry Skylar, my bad, now you have to wait 3 extra days before friends can ride with you. He might need the extra practice!

Todd's cousin and his family were scheduled to come stay on the boat with them for a few days and needed they to get picked up in Lund. Rather than pull the anchor on the big boat we decided it was a beautiful day and a 24 mile round trip in our dinghies seemed like the way to go. Todd needed to get his cousin and we needed groceries and fuel for the dinghy so Skylar and I took off ahead of them (our dinghy is much slower). It was an awesome adventure as the sun set with smooth water all the way there and back.

Wednesday July 26<sup>th</sup> – We are going to spend the next couple days in Tenedos Bay. Zach and Skylar had a grand plan that involved carrying in 2 kayaks to Unwin Lake and fishing for trout in the lake. The lake trail starts at the head of Tenedos Bay. It's about a 10-minute walk but to portage kayaks would take them much longer. But they were determined to do it all on their own.

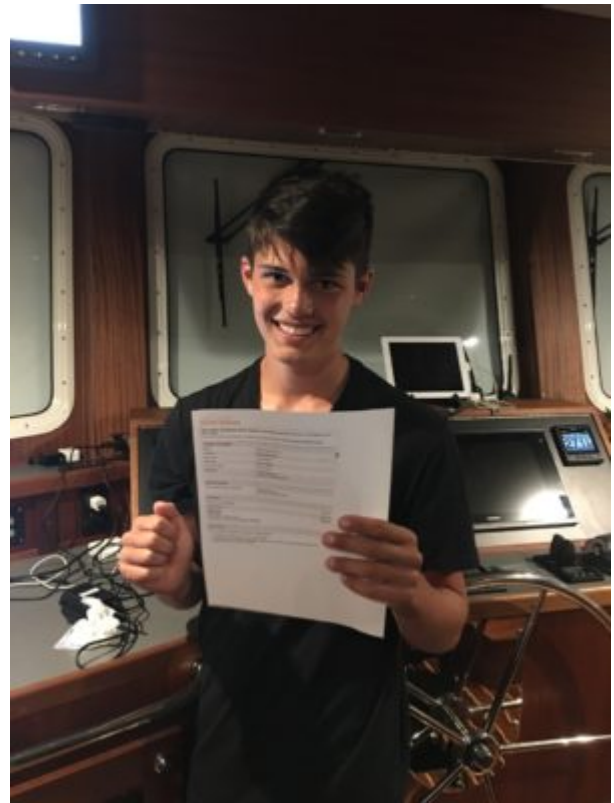
Equipped with a handheld VHF radio so we could communicate with them they took off paddling for the trailhead. They could only carry one kayak at a time but after 45 minutes they had them both on the lake. They were gone for hours on their own adventure exploring every part of the lake. However, as much as they tried the trout were not biting that day. They were

both completely exhausted when they came back but they said it was all worth it.

The next morning Julie, Ava and I sat in the dinghy just outside the bay where we could get cell reception. We worked on emails and did a blog post but mostly just relaxed in the sun!



Skylar driving the dinghy  
all the way to Lund 24nm  
round trip



Skylar got his drivers  
license!!





Birthday dinner with  
everyone



Bruce and Gloria's  
Tollycraft



The only place to get cell  
service was out in the  
dinghy



Skylar tubing in the background







# Tangled

Sunday July 23<sup>rd</sup> – After a fun 2 nights at Dent Island Lodge we all departed the dock at 10am to make slack water at Dent Rapids then ran 15nm northwest to Blind Channel.

Blind Channel is a great place that's very isolated; the only way to get to Blind Channel on West Thurlow Island is by floatplane or private boat. Our goal here was to 1, catch some nice Lingcod and 2, have dinner out at their restaurant.

Lingcod are easiest to catch at slack water and Blind Channel can run water at a pretty good clip. We had to wait a few hours for slack so we went for a hike to kill some time. This place has the most incredible (about a 2 mile loop) hike up a steep hill and through some amazing forestland. There's even a huge old growth cedar tree that must be 10' across. The hike was great, except for one bee sting on my ankle that got us all running down the trail to get away from the swarm we were sure was coming.

4:30pm Skylar and I jumped in the dinghy to hit slack water and find us some Lingcod. Skylar talked to a guy who caught a 40 pounder down the channel a ways but it was too rough in our 13' dinghy to get there safely. We turned around to hit the spot we've caught Ling before and started fishing.

We didn't have much time, dinner reservations were at 6pm and after fishing for a while it looked like we were going to get skunked. Then wham, we brought a nice one in the boat. We needed 2 to limit and time was running out. We kept saying just 2 more minutes, knowing the rest of our group was just about to go up to dinner. Just as we were about to give up I got another nice one on! As it came to the boat I grabbed the line to ease it into the net but in my haste the fish broke

the line with one quick flick of his head.

I could see the fish swimming away but not very quickly. It must have been our lucky day because the fish was just barely tangled in Skylar's line allowing us to gently pull on his line and get the fish in the net! We couldn't believe it; I guess that fish was destined for our dinner table. Now, late for dinner, we pulled up to everyone all cleaned up headed down the dock. Proud of our catch, Skylar and I quickly filleted the fish, got cleaned up, and made it to dinner just in time for drinks to be delivered.

Monday July 24<sup>th</sup> – After an incredible dinner the night before with all 14 of us, we left Blind Channel headed for the Octopus Islands on Quadra Island with Todd's boat following behind. These are new cruising grounds for us and once again we had to hit a couple different rapids at slack. After navigating through an extremely narrow cut getting into the Octopus Islands we anchored in Waiatt Bay traveling 23.7nm.

We all went to shore, dug some clams, played on the beach then headed off for a 4 mile round trip hike to Newton Lake. This was an awesome hike through a beautiful forest and up a steep slope with lots of switchbacks. Just as we arrived at the lake Skylar and Zach decided to go off trail but were forced back with beestings. I decided to do a little fly-fishing. Determined to catch a fish, Zach, Skylar and I stayed at the lake while the rest of the group headed back down the trail. No luck! I packed up and the 3 off us ran half way back down the trail catching up with the rest of the group.

We had a great anchorage that night and all had dinner together.





Lunch at Blind Channel



View of the channel from  
our hike



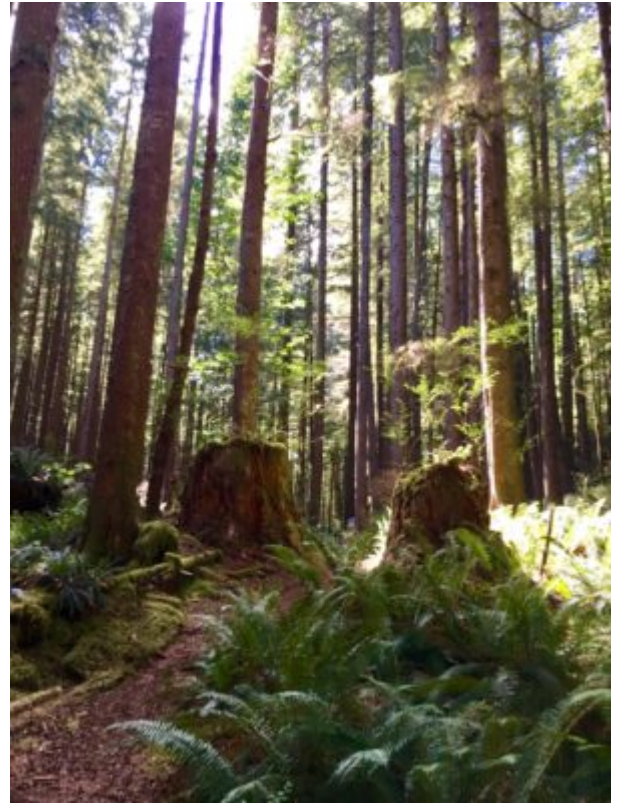


One of our Lingcod



Dozens of interesting mosaics decorate the resort









A beach in Octopus Islands



All of us riding back to  
the boat after the hike

