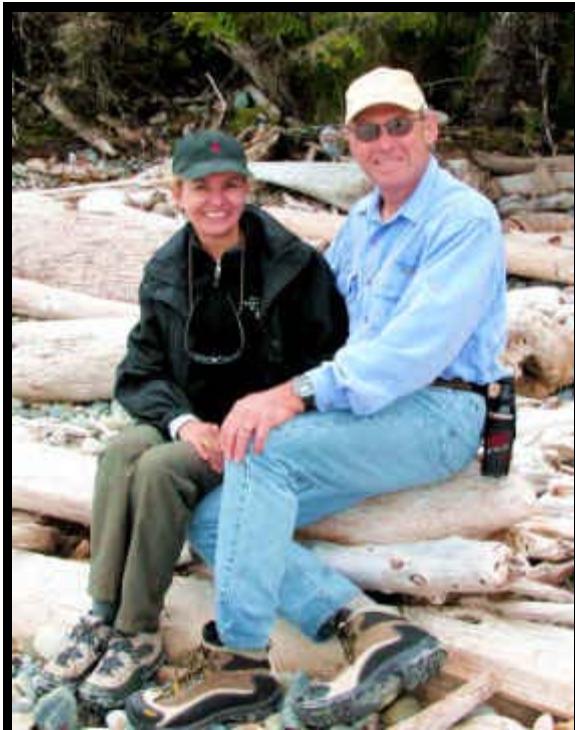


**From:** "Inside Passage via satellite" <CABianco@stratosnet.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 27, 2004 11:36 AM  
**Subject:** 2004 Inside Passage Journal #1

**Hello and Welcome Aboard** Unless you ask to be deleted from our list, you will continue to receive our periodic journals recounting our adventures aboard the *Inside Passage* on our annual cruise to Alaska. Our trip will be the shortest in the last ten years and cover 31 days of cruising the protected waters of British Columbia, Canada and Southeast Alaska.

**Sunny Departure** This is our 20<sup>th</sup> annual cruise north, and most years it seems that has rained when we cast off from Mercer Island. This year our departure day of June 20<sup>th</sup> broke the pattern. It was an absolutely gorgeous day. Our crewmates for the first two weeks are long time friends from Seattle, Sarah and Jerry Bernstein ([see photo](#)). They will be traveling with us to Ketchikan, Alaska. The Barwick family, Cameron, Carly and Megan along with their parents Jon and Julie, joined us for an abbreviated cruise through the Seattle Ship Canal and the Hiram Chittenden Locks that separates our fresh water anchorage on Lake Washington from the salt water of Puget Sound. It was fun to have them along to see their city from a waterside view. We dropped them at Shilshole Marina just past the locks.



We chose a popular locale in the San Juan Islands for our first night. Carl had made prior arrangements to visit in Friday Harbor with Todd and Kathy Kromer and their three children, twins Will and T.K. and daughter Zoey ([see photo](#)). Todd was Carl's partner in the *Rainy Daze*, a teen club and rock concert promotion business in St. Louis in the late 1960's. This was only the second time they have seen each other in thirty-five years. Todd and Kathy recently moved to the San Juans from Denver and have begun construction of a new home. We can't remember the last time that we

have had this many children on board in one day.

**Vancouver** The sea conditions were dead calm as we cruised up Georgia Strait. Once again, we were able to get moorage at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club adjoining Stanley Park. On this hot summer afternoon, we enjoyed a nice long walk the entire length of Denman Street. It bisects the western edge of Vancouver from Coal Harbor to English Bay. Vancouver is a fabulous city that is densely populated with a large multicultural population. Dozens of ethnic restaurants and small mom-and-pop stores line this very active street. When we reached English Bay, there were beach-goers everywhere sunning and playing on the sandy shoreline.

**Pender Harbour** We resumed our trip north in continued great weather, and eventually had to go below because it became uncomfortably hot on the top deck. This is not a problem we often encounter onboard the *Inside Passage*. This was our first anchorage in Garden Bay in Pender Harbour since our maiden cruise to Alaska in 1984. We kayaked to the nearby provincial park and then took a pleasant hike along the connecting road.



**Desolation Sound** We spotted an ancient ochre pictograph on a cliff in the Copeland Islands on our way into this very scenic and popular boating destination. This was our very first stopover in Prideaux Haven, an often crowded anchorage. With its spectacular views of the snow-covered peaks (see photo), many Seattle boaters claim this to be the quintessential anchorage in all of greater Desolation Sound. We took advantage of the ideal conditions and kayaked in the afternoon around the small islands surrounding our moorage. This area is rich in tidal sea creatures like sea stars (see photo). Wild oysters grow on most shorelines. The water temperature was just over 70 degrees. Desolation Sound has the warmest ocean water in the Pacific Ocean north of Mexico.



**Johnstone Strait** We took the scenic route through Desolation Sound between West and East Redonda Islands. Again we viewed more native pictographs at Walsh Cove, and easily passed through the Yuculta Rapids just an hour past slack tide. As typical for this area, there were many bald eagles around seeking a fish meal. Our next destination

was Johnstone Strait where gale force winds were forecast for later in the afternoon. Fortunately, they never materialized. We haven't seen many other boats along the way. A few sailboats, tugs pulling log booms or barges, but not the commercial fishing vessels that used to be so common streaming up to Alaska. We anchored for the night in Port Harvey and kayaked through the extensive back channels. We discovered a shell midden which marked the remains of a former First Nations village by spotting the tell-tale shore line filled with extensive quantities of broken white clam shells. The deep carpet of shells was built up over centuries of habitation. Politically correct modern Canada currently refers to its native population by their preferred title of "First Nation".

**Queen Charlotte Sound** Our bright sunny skies and hot days finally disappeared. We continued our route northwest through Johnstone Strait. Carl had originally selected an inlet to spend the night near the entrance of the Queen Charlotte Strait so we could get an early start across a major exposed crossing. Our visibility was so limited there wasn't much to see except shades of gray. The horizon was totally obscured and we relied heavily on our radar to watch for other vessels and also identify the larger logs that were potential hazards. With the weather so calm and only gentle swells coming in from the Pacific, we decided to keep going and cross Queen Charlotte Sound. Enroute we saw our first humpback whale of the season in a location 100 miles south of any previous sightings on past voyages. Over the years, we have learned that Queen Charlotte Sound separates the casual from the serious boaters. We are never more than a few miles offshore when we make the passage, but the large tidal flows combined with wrong wind conditions can make this a potentially unpleasant body of water. We came to rest for the night in an inlet aptly named Secure Anchorage. It was a long day for us having traveled over 100 miles.



**Goose Island** Under placid conditions, we visited Goose island, located approximately nine miles off of the coast ([see photo](#)). This locale of windswept trees, polished silver snags, and glistening beaches - some piled high with drift logs - show the effects of strong storm winds. Both the stunted trees and the gentle but ominous surge are a constant reminder that you are exposed to the full force of the Pacific Ocean. A

mossy woodland hike and beachcombing for treasures ended the first week of our cruise.