

2016 Alaska Cruise Journal # 3

New Crew We welcomed Brian Schultz and Emily Rosenzweig. Emily is a rabbi and U. S. Navy chaplain assigned to a Marine battalion on Oahu. Brian is an assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the School of Medicine of the University of Hawaii **(photo)**.

After their evening arrival at the end of a long day of travel, we gave them a brief walking tour of downtown Ketchikan. Since the four visiting cruise ships of the day had departed, the docks and stores were mostly deserted.



Misty Fjords Before heading south we made an overnight stop in Misty Fjords National Monument, the nearby 2.2 million acres of wilderness.

The area lived up to its name with visibility limited because of low hanging clouds, but there were numerous waterfalls along the steep granite cliffs **(photo)**. Among the wildlife we saw on this visit was a solitary common loon **(photo)**. The French



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mini-cruise ship *Le Solelil* was temporarily anchored near the inner most reaches of Rudyard Inlet (*55 38.409 N, 130 39.050 W*). As we passed into the inner bay, we saw eight small inflatable boats running from point to point. Each one was searching for wildlife and other sites to show their passengers. By the time we anchored, the small boats were leaving. The ship had raised anchor and departed by dinner time.

Heading South We stopped to clear Canadian Customs in Prince Rupert. Over the years the strictness of customs enforcement has varied

between our two countries. Currently, the U. S. is becoming tighter while Canada is more relaxed. We were cleared by phone on both of our entries into Canada in 2016.

From our overnight stay at the Port of Prince Rupert's new Cow Bay Marina (*54 19.147 N, 130 19.275 W*), we were able to easily access dinner at a quality restaurant and also pick up additional provisions. We learned that Cow Bay was the location where cattle were formerly unloaded to pasture (**photo**).

Wildlife Opportunities At our next anchorage south, we kayaked under the vigilant eyes of bald eagles and watched salmon try repeatedly to climb the rapids and waterfalls to return to their place of birth (**photo**).



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Two orcas also visited our anchorage, which was a couple of miles off the main channel. They entered the bay and circled around, but didn't approach as close as we had hoped (**photo**).

Green Inlet Using a break from the day's rain, we kayaked after dinner from our anchorage in Green Inlet (*52 55.220 N, 128 28.000 W*) to get some exercise and to inspect and photograph a nearby waterfall (**photo**).



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While paddling across the Green Inlet channel we saw the tall dorsal fin of a large male orca and watched as it repeatedly exhaled its moist breath. Waiting patiently, we figured that the orca ultimately would leave the inlet and pass right by us. We were wrong. After a half hour, the rain returned but the orca didn't, so the group returned to the *Inside Passage* and concluded the evening's activities by watching a movie.

An Unexpected Adventure We anchored in Joe's Bay because we wanted to see the reversing tidal rapids and falls that connect the bay with large nearby Elizabeth Lagoon (*51 39.231 N, 127 45.849 W*). From a dead calm at the turn of the tide, the connecting channel quickly becomes rapids and ultimately a waterfall during the approximately 10' tidal change over the six hour and fifteen minutes from high to low water.

All but Carl paddled out to explore the area while Carl set up the drone to film their adventures. As it flew toward the turbulent waters, the drone's camera arrived in time to pick up the ladies' two yellow kayakers entire journey through the growing rapids.



The result was an aerial video recording of the unintended descent into Elizabeth Lagoon. In kayakers not intended for white water, and with no experience in rapids, they nevertheless successfully completed the passage. Although there were a few potentially tight moments for the blissfully ignorant kayakers, they reached the lake without mishap (**photo**).

From the drone, Brian's green kayak was not easily visible. It turned out that Brian was on the video, but hard for Carl to see while also focusing on the drone's controls. Wrestling with how to assist, Carl finally concluded that he needed to first fly the drone back to the *Inside Passage*. He then lowered the shore boat

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and headed back to the rapids where he and the crew could assess how to get themselves and the kayakers back to the mother ship. It turned out to be a wise decision as the tidal rapids didn't reverse their flow until we returned 2 ½ hours later at 8:00 PM.

The jet boat bounced through the still increasing rapids to the ladies and after some maneuvering, the group was able to load and secure the two kayakers aboard the shore boat and get a photo or two before heading home **(photo)**.

With all three in the bow of the shore boat, they banged their way back up the stream **(photo)**. It turned

out that from a secure location upstream, Brian had watched and taken photos of the entire experience.



Although this is the final journal of the season, we will circulate notice when the unedited high definition aerial video of the ladies' descent has been posted to YouTube.